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COLLEGE TO END COMMONS SYSTEM 'AS IT EXISTS NOW'

By JAMES FINN
News Editor

The steering committee for the How Will We Live Together project, which has worked over the past year to assess strengths and weaknesses of the commons system, released its final report on Monday. The document, the final installment of the first full assessment of the commons system since it was formed in 1998, makes recommendations that if implemented in full "would effectively mean the end of the commons system at Middlebury as it exists now."

"This represents the first time in 20 years that a comprehensive review of our residential life system has been conducted, something that was long overdue," wrote Derek Doucet, associate dean of students for student activities and education, in an email to The Campus. "It was done in a collaborative fashion, involving students, staff and faculty."

The final report elaborates on suggestions proposed in February's draft of recommendations. The report suggests creating an "office of residential life and education" that would focus on housing operations and health and wellness, as well as improving new student experiences through steps such as geographic consolidation of first-years. Another key suggestion is the implementation of a "student care system overhaul" that would result in a "care database" of students' well-being across areas such as physical and mental health, academic performance and financial status.

Doucet served as co-chair for the steering committee, a group of students and administrators that worked alongside an external review committee of staff from other liberal arts colleges to develop the project over the past year. The external review committee visited campus last October and published a report containing their findings in January. Over the past year both groups surveyed students, held comment periods and published updates with the goal of proposing improvements to the system that has served as the foundation of students' residential experience for the past two decades.

The final report is now up for consideration by the college's Senior Leadership Group (SLG). While full replacement of the commons system is "one possible outcome" of the SLG's deliberations, it's more likely that a "refined" version of the present system will emerge in the coming years, Doucet wrote.

"In either case, I'm confident that essential elements of the present system will be preserved," he wrote.

Some successful elements of the system that might be retained include residential life staff working in close proximity to new-student dorms, a "team-based" and professional train-

Continued on Page 2

SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Jeremy Johnson (left) and Briana Garrett perform during Evolution Dance Crew's spring show, Around the World, at Wilson Hall on Saturday, March 16. See Page 9 for more photos.

Hundreds Strike for National Climate Action at Town Park

By BEN GLASS
Local Editor

Hundreds gathered at the park in downtown Middlebury last Friday, March 15, to strike against government inaction on climate change. Middlebury Union High School students and college students alike walked out of class at noon, flocking to the Town Green. They were met by members of Addison County's Interfaith Climate Action Network and other local climate activists including Bill McKibben, the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and founder of 350.org.

Strike organizers Cora Kircher '20, Connor Wertz '22 and Katie Concannon '22 planned the event in solidarity with the hundreds of other Youth Climate Strikes happening across the globe that day.

In the midst of busy mid-day traffic, event organizers spoke through a blaring microphone while strikers held cardboard signs with phrases like, "Keep fossil fuels in the ground," "Oceans are rising, so are we" and "Stop burning our future." Many in attendance wore green and intermittently cheered throughout the event.

Continued on Page 3

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Connor Wertz '22 addresses the crowd of climate activists on Friday.

Two Years After Murray, Students Reflect on the Disciplinary Process

By SARAH ASCH
Editor-at-Large

Two years ago, students protested and shut down a lecture by Charles Murray, a controversial sociologist whose attempts to link race with intelligence have led many to consider his work racist. The day after the March 2 protest, President Laurie Patton sent an all-school email expressing her disappointment.

"We will be responding in the very near future to the clear violations of Middlebury College policy that occurred inside and outside Wilson Hall," Patton wrote. Specifically, the protestors violated section C.4 of the Student Handbook, which prohibits "disruptive behavior at community events or on campus."

Despite this email, few of the students who protested anticipated the extent to which the college would pursue sanctions against them. The investigation and judicial process for students who were identified as having attended the event lasted until late May. The college punished 74 students with sanctions ranging from probation, which functions as a warning and a "first strike," to official college discipline, which goes on a student's permanent record.

During the first round of sanctions in March, 48 students were called in to meet with judicial affairs officers and put on probation for the remainder of the semester. The remaining 26 students, who were originally charged with official college discipline, did not receive notice of their punishment until early April.

Many decided to appeal the college's decision to sanction them with official college discipline, which triggered a longer and more complicated judicial process that culminated in hearings before the college's Community Judicial Board. Nineteen of those 26 students faced official college discipline for the same charge: remaining in Wilson Hall to protest after the event had been moved to a live stream. These students requested a group hearing to appeal the finding, and were granted permission to go through the process together. Ultimately, all 19 had their punishment reduced and were put on probation for the remainder of the spring and, for those not about to graduate, for two additional semesters.

The students involved, who are now more willing to discuss the judicial process than they were two years ago, recently agreed to speak about their experiences. They reported that going through the judicial process after the protest negatively impacted their mental health, made it more challenging to focus on their studies and permanently changed the way they view the college and administration.

MICHAEL O'HARA/CAMPUS FILE PHOTO

Student supporters waited outside the Service Building in May 2017, as student protesters of Charles Murray arrived for their Judicial Board hearing.

The Impact

Since the students who faced more serious sanctions did not receive notice until the second round of disciplinary action began in early April, many of them spent March on edge.

"The sense of waiting for punishment was hard," said Matea Mills-Andruk '18.5. "I felt really overwhelmed. I had friends who didn't go to the dining hall for a few weeks or a month after the protest and they mostly stayed in their rooms. They missed a lot of class and just became very isolated and alone."

The waiting was made more stressful for some by the fact that the college used video footage of the protest, often submitted by students, to identify the protestors. Not everybody who protested was identified and called in. This made the process feel confusing and opaque.

Associate Sociology Professor Linus Owens, one of the faculty members chosen by students to attend the hearing, remembered that the length of the judicial process was hard for the students, some of whom came to him for support.

"I think that dragging it out, it really sort of had a terroristic effect on students," Owens said. "Students were waiting to get called and then not everyone got called and then not everyone got punished the same way. It felt arbitrary and really problematic."

Continued on Page 2

10 O'Clock Ross and Social Spaces Top SGA Agenda

By PORTER BOWMAN
SGA Correspondent

Below is an update on the initiatives, both proposed and passed, of the Student Government Association (SGA). Senate meetings run from 7-8:30 p.m. on Sundays in Axinn 220 and are open to the public.

10 O'Clock Ross

After months of planning with Dining Services, the SGA Senate has finalized and passed the 10 O'Clock Ross bill. The long-awaited return of this late night dining option will go into effect on April , the first day of classes after the spring break. The pilot program will operate on Monday and Tuesday nights from 10-11 p.m. in the Ross Fireplace Commons. Student monitors will be employed to oversee the program. Depending on the success of the pilot, 10 O'Clock Ross may expand to another weekday later in the semester and continue next Fall.

Club Coltrane

In response to complaints that there is not enough alcohol-free, nighttime programing, the Social Affairs committee is working to create events and spaces for nighttime activities on the weekends and on weekdays. Senator Masud Lewis '22 has been working to form the Middlebury College After Dark Programming Board, a group that will work with different student groups and locations on campus, such as Coltrane lounge, to plan events.

Reusable To-Go Cups

The Environmental Affairs Committee is working with Dining Services to introduce a reusable to-go cup system in the dining halls. The committee, which presented at the March 10 Senate meeting, is looking to build a pilot program this spring involving a handful of students with the goal of implementing the program campus-wide in the fall. The pilot program will look into a variety of questions such as whether it would be easier for Dining Services to use a carabiner-like system, similar to the to-go boxes, or if providing one reusable cup to each student that they would be responsible for would be simpler.

Faculty/Staff Student Tables

Sophomore senator Eun Ho Lee '21 has been working to implement his program to bring students, faculty, and staff together for meals. One of the barriers Lee has faced is that faculty and staff do not have free access to dining halls. This has prompted larger discussion within the Senate and may change in order to support this program and other forums for student and faculty/staff interaction.

Continued on Page 2

SHEFLY LAUNCHES AT STONECUTTER

By MEREDITH ROBERTSON
Contributing Writer

Stonecutter Spirits teemed with life on Thursday, March 14 during the launch of the SheFly Apparel crowdfunding campaign. Faculty, students and town members gathered to celebrate and support the emerging business, which is moving into its next phase following years of hard work from founders and colleagues Georgia Grace Edwards '18, Bianca Gonzalez '17.5 and Charlotte Massey '19. Funds from donations and pre-orders made during and following the launch will help carry the team through their next steps of production.

If you aren't familiar with the product, here's what you need to know. SheFly Apparel is a female-founded company that has created a line of layerable women's outdoor pants with a longer zipper spanning the crotch that makes answering

Cont. on Page 2

LOCAL

Students design habitat for humanity homes
Page 3

An editor's roundup of local breweries
Page 4

ARTS

Dance Dance Evolution
Page 9

SPORTS

Women's tennis sweeps Brandeis
Page 10

Women's lacrosse edges past Wesleyan
Page 12

Students' Company Launches in Middlebury

Continued from Page 1

nature's call safe, efficient and easy. Rather than risking exposure to the elements, dehydration or a pit stop on unsafe terrain, SheFly offers an effortless solution to peeing outdoors.

And people are catching on to the idea. Online, donations and pre-orders of the pants appear to be increasing by the hour, and the campaign has nearly 5,000 shares on social media. As of Tuesday, SheFly had reached 91 percent of its $15,000 funding goal.

The idea came to Edwards in 2016 when she was working as a glacier guide in Alaska. She faced a serious disadvantage compared to her male co-workers when she needed to use the bathroom. Exposing her body to the elements left her cold for hours and felt like a waste of energy — so much so, that she even resorted to drinking less water on the job so she wouldn't have to pee. Taking this risk is not uncommon for female outdoor adventurers.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Charlotte Massey '19 holds a prototype of the pants.

Edwards eventually united with Gonzalez and Massey, who shared her same passion and struggle. Since then, four more students have joined on their mission, expanding their team of female leaders.

Members of the team were thrilled with the success of Tuesday night's event.

"We are very happy with the turnout!" Massey said. "Friends and supporters from around Vermont turned out for our raffle and to see the pants, including professors, mentors and even a woman we met on a prototype testing hike last year!"

"I'm abroad right now, but I received so many messages commenting on the awesome turnout from friends and mentors who attended the event and consequently had to do a little celebratory dancing all the way over here in the Czech Republic!" said Edwards, who is currently working abroad on a Fulbright scholarship.

For the past year, SheFly has worked hard to perfect its product, which is almost ready for market. For its crowdfunding campaign, the team is pre-selling two pairs of hiking pants, with about only 250 units left available. Pant options include the "Stealth Pee," a style with black fabric and black zipper, and the "Bold Pee" which has black fabric highlighted with a colorful zipper.

Throughout the launch, a prototype was on display and available for people to interact with and ask questions about. People were surprised by the inconspicuous nature of the zipper, which is hidden beneath a flap in the pants. On both variations of the product, wearers can choose to hide or show off their fly, regardless of the color of the zipper.

Those attending the event also had access to the online fundraising page, where they could scroll and read through the company's story. It was here that many visitors read about SheFly's manufacturing partner Visible Clothing, a Fair Trade and zero-waste clothing facility in India. Whatever excess scraps are wasted during the production of the pants are turned into a pulp that can be used by a refugee organization to make notebooks.

The venue was bursting with a sense of pride and excitement for SheFly, a sentiment that was strengthened by the multitude of outside businesses and companies that pitched in. MiddCakes and Flatbread donated food and the raffle table was filled with unique art pieces, gift cards and skincare products from local Vermont vendors. And, of course, Stonecutter served guests drinks.

"We were especially excited about partnering with Stonecutter Spirits because they are a fellow local, women-led business that actively supports other organizations and companies helping women in the Vermont community, such as WomenSafe," Edwards said.

Looking ahead, the SheFly team says that it has upcoming plans to sell the pants direct-to-consumer through its online store. In the future, it hopes to expand into retail. In May, Edwards and Massey will deliver a TEDx Talk at TEDxStowe.

The team is currently asking supporters to follow and subscribe to @sheflyapparel on social media and to sign up for their monthly newsletter on the SheFly website. Subscribers will have access to early deals and one-time special announcements. Stay tuned to see what mark this "zipper revolution" makes on the world.

Disciplined Students Talk Hearings and Aftermath Two Years After Murray

Continued from Page 1

Associate Professor of Education Studies Tara Affolter, who helped students organize the protest, agreed that the lack of transparency during the judicial process was stressful for many of her students.

"That sort of thing had a very chilling and detrimental effect on students. They weren't present for their learning, they weren't able to engage the ideas or grow from the experience," she said.

Owens recalls feeling as though the college was responding to national pressures when deciding next steps, a feeling shared by many of the student protestors.

"I think the punishment was driven less by actual college rules than by the need to satisfy national audiences," Owens said. "There was a huge concern that this was going to cost Middlebury."

Once the extended judicial process began, many students found it incredibly stressful. One student who was part of the group hearing, who asked to be referred to as Bailey, said that their mental health suffered while the process was underway.

"I didn't have any time, was the biggest thing. We were full-time students and we were full-time protestors at that point," they said. "I didn't have any time to even cope with where my mental health was at."

Students were occupied drafting an opening statement, communicating with administrators, supporting one another and lining up character witnesses for the hearing.

The pressures of the judicial process also impacted students' ability to go about the rest of their lives. Mills-Andruk had to quit one of her jobs during that semester. Sarah Karerat '18 said she found it difficult to focus on her academics.

"My ability to participate in classes went down," Karerat said. "It's exhausting to be that anxious all the time. It definitely took a toll on my mental health, and it took a toll on my relationships."

According to Sarah Ray, the director of media relations at the college, the judicial process took so long because of the large amount of photo and video evidence that the college needed to review.

"We understood that the student judicial process was a stressful one for many students, particularly since it came at the end of the semester," she said. "Students were offered expedited paths through the process, which some accepted."

But accepting an expedited path through the process would have meant not challenging the finding of official college discipline, which many students felt was not a reasonable option.

"Being low-income and needing to think about graduate school and scholarships and not having access to graduate school in the way that other folks do, it felt like this could really mess with my future," Karerat said. "I was 20 years old and I didn't know what could happen and I was scared."

On top of stress about potential sanctions, students wrestled with a deeper sense of loss.

"The most jarring thing that happened that semester was I felt like I lost home, and that was so horrible," Karerat said, explaining that during her time in college, Middlebury felt more like home to her than anywhere else. "I didn't trust Middlebury anymore. I didn't trust the space. I didn't know if it was mine. To have that relationship change was really, really difficult."

MICHAEL O'HARA/CAMPUS FILE PHOTO

Students cheered on their peers as they walked to the hearings at the Service Building (above). Below, security stood guard near the crowd.

Bailey recalled a similar feeling of rejection by the wider college community.

"It really felt like the institution itself, that Laurie Patton, that anyone who was at all involved in the upper levels of the institution was saying, 'These aren't Middlebury students, these are thugs, these are radicals and they're not part of our community,'" they said. "There were students on trial who were literally the heads of incredibly important organizations on campus, and for them to experience this disavowal from the college, and for the college to be like, 'You're not part of us anymore,' it really felt like we were voted off the island. To feel like your home didn't want you, that was one of the worst feelings."

The Hearing

Students who went through the hearing recalled that it was also a taxing and emotional experience. Students arrived at the Service Building at 6 p.m. on May 4 along with faculty members, such as Owens, who they chose to attend the hearing for emotional support. They found the entrance lined with police barricades and security with a huge crowd of people gathered to cheer them on as they entered the building.

The hearing lasted around four hours and as part of the process, each student was allowed a character witness to speak on their behalf. Many faculty members served in this role, including Associate Professor of Anthropology Michael Sheridan. Sheridan bought chocolates for the students facing sanctions because he said he figured that they might feel "encircled by dementors."

"After sitting down in front of the board, I made a point to remain facing directly ahead while holding out the packages of chocolate backwards for someone to take and pass on," he said. "That was my way to both support the students and express my frustration at the very, very limited ways that our community was communicating with one another."

According to Karerat, the part of the hearing where the character witnesses read their statements was the most emotional for her.

"There was a lot of crying. A lot of the character witnesses cried and a lot of us cried in response," she said. "Listening to other people's character witnesses, I remember thinking, 'Wow, this is the most resilient, powerful group of people I know and I am so sad they had to go through this.'"

Mills-Andruk also remembers the emotional impact of the character witness statements.

"It was incredible to hear what everyone had done and everyone's interests and lives and families and where they're from," she said. "It was like a song to all of us about our own humanness."

For many, the trial cemented relationships that had been forming throughout the process.

"There was a strong community that came out of this," Karerat said. "It was a strange but lovely silver lining. I think some of the strongest bonds come out of trauma or crisis, and we were all going through the same thing. Especially with all the ruptures over this in the wider community, it was really nice to have a group of people I didn't have to explain myself to."

The Aftermath

The judicial process culminated a few weeks before the end of the semester. Some of the 19 students who went through the group trial graduated, while others returned the following fall and continued serving their probation.

Even though probation does not go on a student's record, many students reported it impacted their lives on campus. According to Bailey, their probation made any kind of activism, like walkouts and rallies, feel like too big of a risk to take.

"I know for me there were events and things going on that I didn't feel comfortable going to because I was worried about how they could progress. I really have no trust in the administration or in the college anymore and so I didn't want to take any risks," they said. "It was a very effective silencing of any student that had it."

Affolter also worries about how the college's handling of the judicial process will impact future student organizing efforts.

"I think it's going to continue to limit and create fear around student protests and protests in general," she said. "I don't think it's pedagogically or developmentally appropriate to use fear and vague intimidation as a way to shore things up. That's not really the best way to get the community that you want."

Despite everything that happened afterward, Mills-Andruk said that she does not regret protesting.

"If we had not resisted, the message to the rest of the student body, the staff and faculty of the college, alumni, community members in the town of Middlebury, or anyone watching the news, would be of an apathetic campus who did not care about its community," she said. "The protest was an act of kindness, care, defense, love, desperation and survival."

All of the students who spoke to The Campus about the judicial process reported wrestling with a complicated or outright negative view of the college in light of their experience.

"It felt so obvious where loyalties lay and it was not with marginalized students during that process," said Sarah Koch '18.5. "It felt so clear to me that Middlebury was concerned about their reputation above everything else, to the extent that they couldn't take any sort of institutional action to care for students."

According to Bailey, the aftermath of the protest did permanent damage to their view of the college and the administration.

"It really was like this giant black rain cloud over my time at Middlebury," they said. "Before this event I had always been like, 'I love Middlebury, I'm so happy I went here.' And I still love my life, but I give absolutely no credit to the institution."

Karerat also reported a shift in her feelings toward the college and the administration as a result of this process, although she felt that she was able to rebuild some of those relationships in her final year on campus.

She added that, despite everything, she hopes that students will continue to organize and advocate to make Middlebury a better place.

"Keep the radical organizing activist energy alive," she said. "Organizing spaces are great spaces for community and friendship, and they are the best spaces to work to make change, and Middlebury needs to change. It is always going to have room to grow."

Senior Fellows Make Midd Admissions Stand Out

By HANNAH BENSEN
Staff Writer

At most colleges and universities, professional admissions officers deliver information sessions to prospective students and their families. Not so at Middlebury, where each year, eight seniors are tasked with serving as the face of the college to the more than 10,000 visitors that come to campus.

The senior fellows program, founded by Dean of Admissions Greg Buckles, was originally created to fill a staffing shortage created by traveling admissions officers.

"In a nutshell, the senior fellows are the group of seniors who basically are the main public relations agents at the college for the admissions office," said Sam Prouty, associate director of admissions and the supervisor of the fellowship program. "The public can hear directly from someone who is about to get out of here who is an example of what Middlebury education might look like. It almost feels like they are living the life of a Middkid for a day."

In addition to leading hour-long information sessions, senior fellows are responsible for working at open house events, performing administrative duties and assisting admissions with various programs and projects. They are given flexibility in the information they choose to share and represent a diverse cross-section of the student body — an intentional effort on the part of the Admissions Office.

"We want a group of people who, added up, represent as much of the college as possible," Prouty said. "We don't want them all to be neuroscience majors and we don't want them all to be cross country runners."

"I'm really honest about Midd in my sessions," said Senior Fellow Kahari Blue '19. "I don't sugarcoat things that don't need to be sugar coated, and I don't lie about some of the college's more negative characteristics. But my audiences seem to love that."

Separately, Blue worked with the Institutional Diversity Committee of the SGA to create a Student Ambassador program. The program allows students from underrepresented communities to give short information sessions at local high schools when they are home over breaks.

"I have met many wide-eyed, ambitious high school students who are so enthusiastic about joining this community, which makes me optimistic the student body will be in good hands when I leave in a couple of months," Blue said.

Both Blue and Hollie Haigh '19, also a fellow, said that participating in the fellowship improved their public speaking skills. They also enjoy helping to plan programs like Preview Days and Discover Middlebury, which allows high school seniors from traditionally under-represented groups to visit Middlebury.

"To have your say in how certain programs or events are going to work is cool because we are the current students and we are influencing what the next generation of students are going to be involved in or be interested in," Haigh said. "It feels very genuine from our part."

Last Friday, Haigh gave an information session to a school group of about 30 students and their teacher who drove 1,500 miles from Arkansas to tour various East Coast schools. Haigh said she enjoyed connecting with prospective students and sharing anecdotes from her time at Middlebury, including her misadventures from study abroad in Uruguay when she fell off a bus and hurt her ankle.

Teddy Gold '16 said that the skills he learned as a Senior Fellow have been relevant in his career.

"The program ... stands out as some of the best program management I have experienced in the few jobs I've had out of college," Gold wrote in an email to former supervisor Prouty, which was shared with The Campus. "For me, (it) was a year-long crash course in public speaking, narrative storytelling, and persuasive communication,"

The feedback from visitors has been positive.

"We have heard overwhelmingly that people enjoy connecting with students," Prouty said. "I think it feels more topical and up to date to hear from somebody who is literally in the midst of a job search about where they are and what the CCI (Center for Careers and Internships) is doing to help them conduct that search."

Members of the class of 2020 and 2020.5 who are interested in being a Senior Fellow can apply online at the Student Employment Office Website. The application is due this Sunday, March 24. Students can email Prouty with questions about the paid fellowship at sprouty@middlebury.edu.

COMMONS SYSTEM MAY 'EFFECTIVELY END'

Continued from Page 1

ing approach to student res-life staffing, and faculty engagement in the commons, according to Doucet.

While the SLG is now tasked with deciding which of the final report's recommendations to approve, the task of implementing the recommendations will ultimately fall on the residential life staff.

"Depending on which recommendations are ultimately accepted, such a transition plan could take several years to complete," Doucet wrote.

DISPATCHES FROM SGA MEETINGS

Continued from Page 1

Financial Literacy

Senior senator Alexis Levato '19 is working to expand opportunities for students to engage with financial literacy tools and workshops. After receiving responses from a campus wide survey, Levato is working with several offices on campus to provide resources and information on topics like personal finance, loan repayment, budgeting and others.

Feedback Form

John Schurer '21, the Senate speaker and a sophomore Senator, has revamped the way that students can reach out to SGA with feedback and comments. The new form is available at go/heySGA.

Staying in Print in the Digital Age: The Role of An Independent Newspaper from VT to Alaska

By ARIADNE WILL
Staff Writer

Thad Poulson and Angelo Lynn live 3000 miles apart and have never met. As owners and publishers of independent newspapers, however, the two have experienced the recent decline in newspaper prosperity together.

"Until maybe ten years ago, we had no financial worries — we were on top of the world," said Poulson, who has been running Daily Sitka Sentinel in Sitka, Alaska with his wife, Sandy, since 1969. "The newspaper had really hearty circulation and good advertisers, and we didn't have any trouble finding staff."

The glory days of print journalism have since ended, however.

"Things are much different now," Poulson said. "The number of paying readers has peaked and we are on a slow, downward slope right now. Costs have outpaced the growth in earnings. The newspaper is not a prosperous operation anymore. We are holding our own, but it is nothing like it was in the old days."

EMILY KWONG/KCAW

The Daily Sitka Sentinel's own printing press at their headquarters.

Lynn, owner of the Middlebury-based Addison Independent and other print publications, has also seen this decline, though he remains more optimistic than Poulson.

"The Addison Independent used to make more money than it does now, but whatever," said Lynn. "Hopefully we can still make a living doing it. I think there is a way to make money in the newspaper business, but it won't make as much money as it used to."

Lynn, who has owned the Independent for the past 35 years, is not new to making changes in order to preserve the operation.

"We used to have a printing press here," Lynn explained, "which was the reason the paper wasn't making any money at the time. After we sold it and started printing at my brother's press, we had more time to focus on the newspaper part and less on the printing part, so that solved that problem."

For Poulson, though, sending his five-day-a-week paper off to a printer is not an option.

"If we were going to print less than a daily, we would sell our press and make a deal with a neighboring town to have it printed," Poulson explained. "The press is a big expense for a small operation."

Sitka, home of Poulson's paper, however, is 92 miles from the nearest city and located on an island with no roads that lead out of town.

"We are so far away from everything we need to put the paper out," he explained. "The paper that we print on comes from a paper mill three hundred miles from the coast of Washington State. We pay for a big van to be hauled empty three hundred miles to the paper mill, and then for the van full of paper to be hauled three hundred miles back to Seattle and shipped on the barge, eight hundred miles north to Sitka. Just the shipping costs over seven thousand dollars."

Why keep paying such an immense price? For Poulson, the hefty price tag is worth it to keep the newspaper a daily.

"There are no other daily newspapers within a circulation area that would include Sitka. There are no other newspapers that can circulate in Sitka on the same day of publication," he elaborated. "That isn't the case in almost any other place you can name in the United States. We're the only game in town if you want to have a print report of the world."

Though the cost of running a newspaper is immense, the digital age has been even more taxing on the business. Sentinel reporter Shannon Haugland believes that a generation raised in an era of screens is to blame.

"The younger generation doesn't want to pay for anything," Haugland said in an interview. "They don't want to pay for content. Younger people find ways to steal movies, steal TV, and use the free videos that are available. I just can't imagine a younger person today buying a newspaper the way I did."

Poulson agreed.

"Anything that people can get free, people are going to get free," he said. "A newspaper costs money. There are circulation pressures on newspapers all over the place. With loss of advertising, newspapers make cuts to their news staff and they start to fail financially."

Lynn has also felt the pressure of the digital revolution, here in Vermont.

"Digital is a huge challenge because it spreads the staff thin. You are at a point where you are trying to do a print edition along with digital and social media," he said. "The website is one thing because you just take the printed news and put it on the website, but that doesn't work to engage with the social community. Now, you have to do social media, which is like another business."

This "other business" is not something that Poulson has the patience to entertain.

"The business is so much different now than it was years ago," he said. "And when you get old like Sandy and me, it's hard to keep up with all the things that we should be doing to keep ahead in this very different newspaper environment that we have now."

While this digitization has played a huge role in the decline in paper sales, the struggles induced by social media go beyond the loss of interest in physical papers.

"I think the problem with social media is that on its own, it doesn't have an editorial component," said Lynn. "Newspapers get their reputation because they have editors and they put things into context and have reporters who have been doing things for a long time and they have some trust in the community. The problem with the Internet is that you don't know where your news comes from, who the person is, what agenda they have, any of those things."

Lynn is not alone in believing in the importance of newspapers as providing a filtered and analytical source. Poulson, too, believes that the reliability newspapers have provided for centuries is under attack by the immediacy of news received on screens.

"The digital communications revolution has changed the landscape all over the place," Poulson said. "People get their information from the online sites that aggregate news from other sources. That's the frustrating part— the news on those sites isn't always from news sources. It's been reconfigured and stolen and stitched together by anyone who feels like it."

Old fashioned as newspapers may be, Haugland believes that they remain more than relics of a bygone age.

"I think people like having a newspaper, and I think a lot of people agree that when they move to a town and there's a newspaper, it says something about the values of the community," she said.

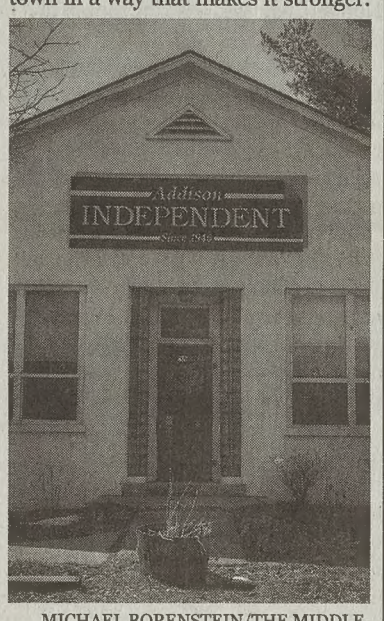
Without a paper, Haugland said, those values would be lost.

"I think newspapers are really important to communities because they hold people accountable," she explained. "They hold decision makers, lawmakers, city officials, school officials, anyone working in the public sector, anyone working in the private sector— they hold all these people accountable in a way that isn't reproduced anywhere online."

Lynn agrees that papers are important. "There is still a role for community papers because they get everyone on the same page, so to speak," he said, comparing this to the number of different sources that people can gather information from now. When the community reads from fifty different sources [...] , what you're reading isn't what they're reading.""

It is this sense of duty that has caused both men to keep to their newspapers for decades.

"I stay in the newspaper business for the love of the community and the role that the paper plays in the community," Lynn said. "It's worthwhile to think that your job is to inform the town in a way that makes it stronger. I don't know what else you do. It's like you just can't quit, for some reason."



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Addison Independent headquarters at Marble Works.

Poulson's response tapped into that same mentality. "There's the notion that publishing a daily paper in a town this size is our calling," he said, "just as someone feels called to praise the lord, to run a church, or to be a preacher. We're the newspaper people."

"You have to love it," Lynn concluded. "If you don't love it, it doesn't work— it runs you ragged. But it's a very worthwhile thing to do, or it seems very worthwhile. I don't know what else I would do."

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students and community members gather to call for climate change action.

Town Green Fills with Climate Activists

Continued from Page 1

"I see a shift in how people are talking about [climate change]," said Warren Galloway '21, who walked out of class that morning. "There's more pressure against governments and bureaucracy and holding people accountable, rather than just starting grassroot movements. I think people are starting to panic."

Speakers included organizers Connor Wertz and Cora Kircher, Asa Skinder '22.5 and Middlebury Union Alumna Greta Hardy-Mittell.

Wertz was the first to speak, citing the U.S. Youth Climate Strike Organization and pleading support for the Green New Deal, an immediate halt to fossil fuel infrastructure, and mandatory inclusion of climate change in U.S. education systems.

"This is more of a prayer than anything else," said Wertz, urging local leaders and government officials to listen and act on the cries from America's youth. "We are asking for your actions. We are asking for your vote, your body, your tongue, your arms and wrists and your will. That's what we need to make the change that needs to happen."

Cora Kircher spoke next, framing climate change as a present threat.

"This can't be a future-centered movement alone because [climate change] is happening right now," she said. Kircher hosted a minute of silence for people currently experiencing the effects of climate change, as well as for the Abenaki people, "whose land we are occupying."

Asa Skinder '22.5 spoke third, informing protesters about the State Government's hesitance to confirm the ESSEX Plan, a state initiative to produce low-cost clean energy to Vermonters. In a state that spends 8% of its GDP on fossil fuels, Skinder believes Vermont isn't doing nearly enough to limit its use of these resources.

"In Vermont, we often feel like we are in an environmentally responsible place, but if you look at the actions of our leaders in the House and Senate, that's not true," Skinder said. "They may not be climate change deniers, but they are climate delayers."

Middlebury Union High School Alumna Greta Hardy-Mittell broke up the largely political discourse by reading an anecdote of her time in the Amazon Rainforest in December of last year.

"The suffocating fear of climate change followed me even to the most remote and pristine location on earth," she said. "I could only think about how it is all going to fade away."

Kircher capped the event by fiercely arguing that climate change is a complex issue, comprised of matters of social prejudice and conservative economic policy.

"In order to fight the climate crisis, we have to pursue a radical politics that recognizes that climate change isn't separate from white supremacy, capitalism and an extractive economy and culture based on commodity accumulation and the exploitation of natural resources and other human beings," she said.

The crowd dispersed around 12:30 p.m. after a last applause for all four speakers. Many felt satisfied with the event.

"There was a great turn out," said Cat La Roche '21. "I really didn't expect this many people."

To learn more about The Youth Climate Strike Organization, visit youthclimatestrikeus.org.

Local Habitat for Humanity Collaborates With Students

By WILL KELLEY
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY - The culmination of semesters of work, years of planning and months of administrative coordination will finally be realized in the coming weeks as construction crews break ground on the newest Habitat for Humanity (HfH) build site in Addison County. Two new houses will be constructed at 51 Seymour St., just north of Marble Works once the ground thaws.

Both houses were designed by Middlebury students in Professor John McLeod's interdisciplinary class, "Architectural Studies/Habitat for Humanity Housing Unit: From Design Development to Bidding." The design unfolded over three semesters, beginning in the spring of 2018 and ending this past J-Term.

The initial idea for the project started back in 2017 with a conversation between Mickey Heineken, the president of the Addison County Habitat for Humanity affiliate group, and Middlebury College President Laurie Patton. Heineken was looking to find a way to align the College with Habitat's mission to create local affordable housing. Middlebury students had for a long time volunteered on Habitat build sites around the area through the college HfH Club, but Heineken saw an opportunity for even greater involvement.

Around this same time, the Addison County HfH had just acquired the lot on Seymour St., and was in the process of tearing down the old duplex that had been there. They had a space to build, but no design. The architect who had volunteered to design houses for HfH in the past had just taken a job at a new design firm, and could no longer help out. This provided the perfect opportunity for Middlebury students to step in.

With the help of Addison County HfH, various college administrators, department heads and professors decided to create the class that would go on to design the houses.

"We've always had student volunteers assisting with our houses from the get-go ... so it was an easy jump to go from the students helping us with the actual building of the house to the designing of the house," said Heineken.

Because the houses were actually going to be built, the students not only had to design the buildings, but also had to do so in accordance with strict town building regulations.

"Having to go through the permitting and the town is a very complicated process," Heineken explained. "From the point of a potential architecture student, it couldn't have been a better experience because they're going through something that all architects have to go through. That all goes hand-in-hand with actually designing the house."

Designing the plans for real houses in the classroom also allowed interested community members and Habitat board members to share in the design process. This was a new experience for everyone involved.

"In my own practice, we don't typically have the client right there the whole time," said McLeod, who also co-directs a private architecture firm based out of Frog Hollow, commenting on how unusual the process was. But he nevertheless enjoyed having representatives from HfH present. "It's really helpful to have representatives there, and they're really part of the team. It enables us to work directly with them, to develop ideas and get their feedback in real time, which is awesome," he added.

On the Habitat side, Heineken was equally enthusiastic about the classroom dynamic. "It was a new

Continued on Page 4

Southern Vermont College Falls to State's Declining Enrollments

By ELLIE ANDERSON
Local Editor

Within only two months of Green Mountain College's announcement that it will close after this academic year, Southern Vermont College (SVC) has followed suit. Located in Bennington, VT, the private, liberal arts college announced on March 4 that it too would shut down this summer, to the shock and surprise of many of its students.

In his statement, SVC President David Evans said that the decision to close the college occurred after the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to remove the college's accreditation "based on institutional resources." Evans specifically referenced financial problems due to "regional demographics" and "enrollment challenges."

Evans stressed in his announcement to the SVC community that "NECHE's concern was limited to SVC's finances only. The quality of the education we offer, institutional integrity, the transferability of courses and the value of our degrees, are not in question." SVC's accreditation will last until Aug. 31, 2019, allowing for students who need the summer to complete graduation requirements to do so.

SVC's current enrollment is around 330 students, a number that reached a peak of 500 in past years. Seventy of those students are eligible to graduate this year.

The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), a short twenty minute drive from SVC's campus, has been announced as SVC's preferred teach-out partner, an agreement that would allow current SVC students to finish their degrees at MCLA.

"We selected MCLA primarily because we have great confidence in their faculty and staff to be supportive of our students and the challenges they are and will be facing, which has already been demonstrated by their outstanding response to our situation," Evans told The Campus in an email. "They have had teams on campus almost every day since the closure announcement, working with students and our staff to provide advice and options for transferring."

SVC is also working with Norwich and Castleton Universities to provide other transfer options for students who might not find equivalent degree programs at MCLA.

SVC's closure will also greatly affect its 100 full-time and 30 part-time staff members.

"The staff and faculty have been distressed because they love our students and the work we do at SVC," Evans told The Campus. "My sense is that their first impulse has been to protect the students, but of course they face employment issues and all kinds of other uncertainty as well, which is very stressful."

When asked about the seemingly abrupt nature of the closure announcement, Evans responded, "Ultimately, I'm afraid, there's simply no good way to do something like

Continued on Page 4

Cold Brews, Hot Takes: The Campus Guide to Local Breweries

By KENSHIN CHO
Local Editor

Last Thursday, I turned 21. Being in Vermont, I decided to celebrate the occasion not by throwing a Busch-fueled dorm room pregame, but with a local, authentic drinking experience: a craft brewery tour.

When I looked for places to visit, though, I found a lack of guidance. The Vermont Brewers Association puts out a map of the state's 60 breweries, but it was sparse in detail. Online beer reviews were too technical and somewhat snobby. Even our very own Middlebury Campus had never published a guide.

As the Local section of The Campus, we took it upon ourselves to fill this void. So here it is, a rundown of local breweries from your average Middlebury junior.

Red Clover Ale

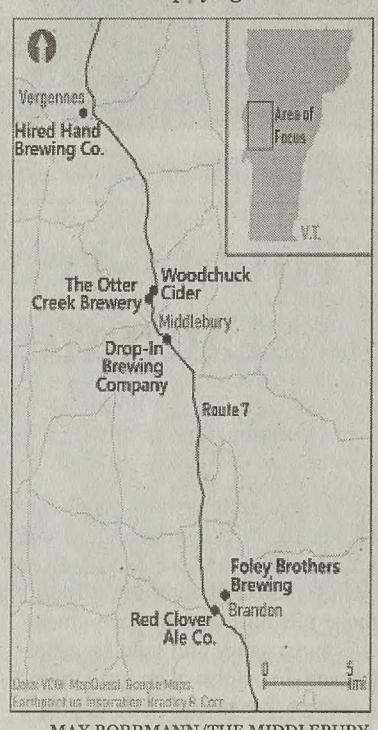
My first stop of the day was Red Clover Ale located in Brandon, a half-hour drive along Route 7. It's a recent addition to the brewery scene here in Addison County, started in November 2018 by three brother-in-laws.

At first glance, the space looks more like a trendy café than a brewery. Everything was in a single spacious room — including the brewing and fermentation tanks, cordoned off from the rest with only a small swinging door. The décor was simple, two long wooden tables flanked by beer barrels that doubled as tables. Metal stools, patterned aluminum ceiling and exposed bulbs hanging on cables completed the look. Perfect for Instagram.

And the beer? Clean, balanced and surprisingly accessible. Their hoppiest drink of the day, the Fly Agaric, a double IPA, had all the flavor and complexity you would want without an overpowering bitterness that you might expect in such a hop-forward beer.

"They're not in your face," explained Riker Wikoff, one of the owners of the brewery. He offered me another beer, this time a German Kolsch he called Edelweiss: with a much a lighter feel and a crisp finish, it felt almost like drinking a clean lager. "I don't like to get slammed on super ABV beers. I like to be able to enjoy more than one," he added.

When Riker and his other co-founders created the tasting room, they envisioned a space for people to linger and socialize, building a light-filled room with soft music playing in the background and a stack of board games on a foosball table by the corner. They also brewed beers that reflected that concept, with most drinks clocking in at less than 6 percent ABV.

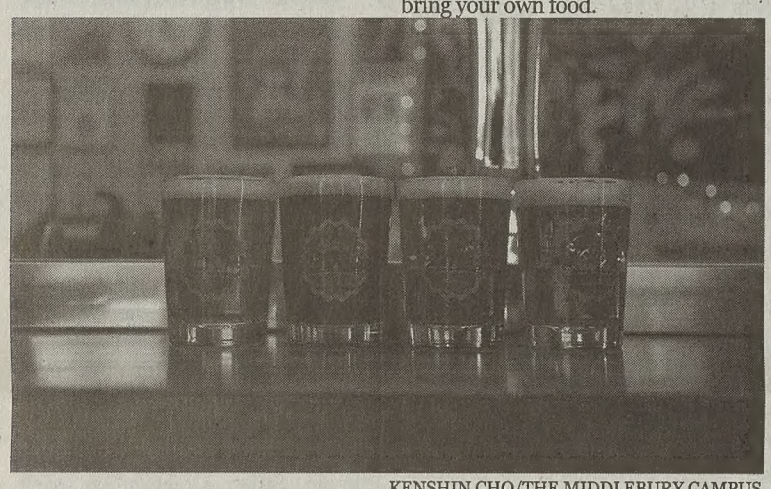


MAX BORRMANN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A road map to local craft breweries.

It's a recipe that seems to be working so far. As I was about to leave, a man walked up to the bar, ordered a glass, took a seat by the long tables and opened a book and began reading.

Hot Takes: A fancy café with beer, not coffee. Chill with friends, play games, even read. Just don't forget to bring your own food.



KENSHIN CHO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A tasting flight at Drop In Brewing Company.

Foley Brothers

I headed to Foley Brothers next, a more established player in Vermont located just a few minutes away from Red Clover Ale. It was slightly off the beaten path, down a windy road with more potholes than I could count.

Alyssa Zollman, the weeknight tasting room manager greeted me as I walked into the 18th century farmhouse-turned-brewery. She led me through an Irish/pirate themed main tasting room to a smaller room in the back usually used for wine tastings (Foley Brothers also owns a vineyard) but that acts as the winter tap room. "It's easier to heat," she explained.

One of the first beers I tried was Pieces of Eight, a double IPA made with eight different hops. With every sip I took, I tasted a different flavor — fruitiness, earthiness, citrus — the whole spectrum. It ended with a strong but balanced bitterness, a trait many of its beers shared. I could see why the brewery had won several accolades over the years, with its flagship brew, the Prospect, ranked alongside some of the top beers in Vermont.

The secret to their success? "Pride and quality," said Paul Babick, the brewery cellarman. "Nobody takes more pride in the beers than the brothers do," he emphasized.

There's something in the water in Brandon. With two phenomenal breweries with totally different personalities, you could spend the day at Foley Brothers trying their IPAs, then grab a bite to eat at one of Brandon's many local eateries and go over to Red Clover for some afternoon drinks and a round of boardgames.

Hot Takes: If you love IPAs, go to Foley Brothers. If you're willing to tolerate a small space and the bumpy ride, you'll be rewarded with phenomenal beer.

Drop-In

While Brandon is great, you don't have to drive half an hour for a quality beer experience. Just down the road from Hannaford sits Drop-In brewery, a student favorite. It's an eclectic place with a diverse range of beers on tap — from consistent hits like Sunshine & Hoppiness to occasional brews like Czech Your Ego.

Drop-In is also home to the American Brewers Guild, a brewing school run by Steve Parkes, owner and co-founder. "The brewery's almost like a hobby for Steve," explained Spencer Norland, who was working the tap that day.

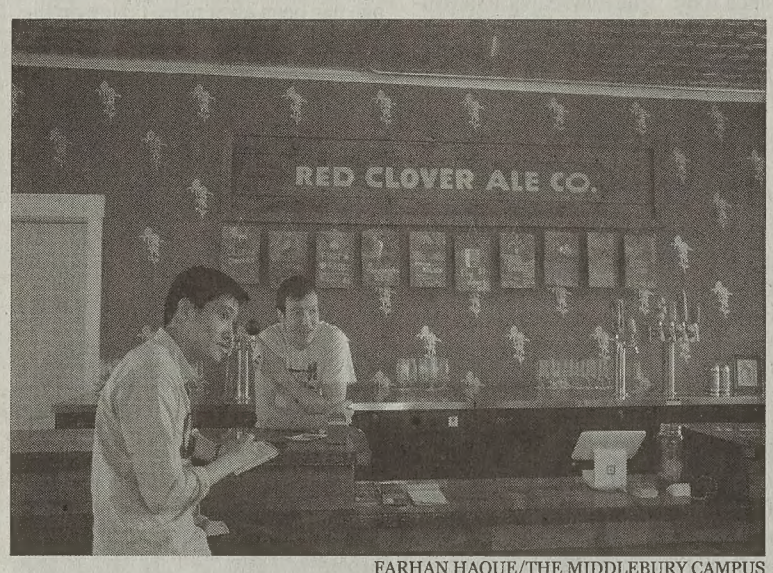
The room really did feel like a hobby. A collection of what seemed like items from a British teenager's dorm room covered the walls from floor to ceiling: soccer jerseys, band posters, even a random assortment of signs. "I've heard that the theme of this place is 'get this crap out of the house,'" joked the man sitting next to me by the bar.

It's the same creative, free-spiritedness at the source of its flavorful beers, a taste that's worth the trip even if the brewery were a long drive away.

Pro-tip: If you don't have a car, you can take the ACTR Route 7 bus to get there. But before you board at ADK, ask the driver to drop you off in front of Drop-In (pun not intended). While it's not an official stop, they often accommodate deviations of less than half a mile. If not, it's only about a five-minute walk from either the stop before at Hannaford, or the stop after at Rosie's.

Here's another tip: If you don't know what to order, many of these places will let you have a taste before you commit to a pint. Take advantage of it – it'll save us all the embarrassment of pretending to know the difference between a piney IPA and a resinous ale.

Hot Takes: For times you want proper beer without committing to a half-hour drive. Also great for first-timers: it's close to home, and its educational roots shine through with the most detailed drink menu I've seen and a helpful staff. The beers are also up there with the best I've tasted, with a wide range and strong flavors.



FARHAN HAQUE/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Riker Wikoff talks RCA's concept with Kenshin.

Otter Creek

As I pulled into the parking lot of Otter Creek, I was immediately hit with a scent of hops. They were coming from the towers jutting out of the brewery, housing the tanks that make up the industrial brewing operation. Only a few minutes from campus on Exchange Street, the craft brewery is one of the largest in the New England area, capable of producing more than 120 barrels at a time.

"We've got freshness and consistency," said Robbie Leeds, the cellar supervisor, as he showed me the machinery. The high-tech operation spoke to the quality of one of the institutions that put Vermont craft beers on the map. Its flagship beer, the Free Flow IPA, with its iconic image of an orange van is distributed across the region.

The beer at the tap room was also great, from the Tiny Mountain Ale, a crisp, low-ABV drink to its chocolate stout, a heavy 11 percent dark beer with a hint of bourbon at the end.

With so many different drinks to choose from, some of them exclusive to the tap-room, it's a worth a visit. But don't plan on making new friends, with the music cranked up high and waiters bringing your drinks to the table, it's lost a little bit of the personal touch of a local brewery.

Hot Takes: Friends from out of town? Picky drinker? Take them to Otter Creek. A recognizable brand, unparalleled variety of beer, and solid food options make OCB another great choice.

Hired Hand

My last destination was Hired Hand, a tap-room in Vergennes. By the time I arrived, I was exhausted from two days of drinking and driving (not at the same time, of course).

But the bustling energy of the tap-room quickly sobered me up. The room was packed, and waitresses shuffled around delivering plates of food. I wedged myself between a couple and a group of friends sitting at the bar.

The space was rustic but stylish. Instead of levers, the taps behind the bar was made of old equipment from Ian's family farm: wrenches, springs, handles.

But the food is what really separates Hired Hand from all the other breweries in the area. Head chef and owner Ian Huizenga runs both the brewery and the restaurant downstairs, Bar Antidote. They focus on hyper local ingredients, with much of it coming from within a few miles in Addison County. The result is an authentic farm-to-table style with a creative menu.

For Huizenga, making his own beer was a project that grew out his love for cooking with local ingredients. "We want this to be for the community," he said as he listed the different farms from which he sourced his hops and other ingredients.

Currently, Hired Hand collaborates with Bobcat Brewery in Bristol to brew custom beers, but will start its own operations on-premise in June.

Hot Takes: Perfect for a date or a nice meal away from town. Come for the beer but stay for the food.

My review isn't comprehensive by any means. This is just the beginning to exploring all of what Vermont has to offer.

But one thing's for sure: Busch isn't gonna cut it anymore. So if you're turning 21, grab a sober friend, pack your ID and hit the road. 55 breweries to go.

SVC Announces Closing

Continued from Page 3

announce the closure of a college, because people invest very intense emotions in these institutions for all kinds of very good reasons, and those emotions make our current situation deeply painful for everyone."

SVC began in 1926 as Saint Joseph College, first located in downtown Bennington. In 1974 the college was turned over to a board of independent trustees and moved to its current spot on the Everett Estate, according to the school's website.

The closures of Green Mountain College and Southern VT College reflect a greater pattern cropping up across both Vermont and the nation as a result of declining enrollments. Rural states like Vermont are struggling to retain a consistent pool of college-age applicants, causing significant financial problems for their small, private colleges.

In addition to GMC and SVC, Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, is on probation with NECHE, and the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, VT, recently suspended its undergraduate program and faces a removal of its accreditation for both its graduate and undergraduate programs.

"More than half of us are facing existential threats," Evans told The Campus, speaking to the number of VT colleges in danger of closing. "Vermont has a tremendous problem with demographics already, which is a major cause of the challenges our colleges are facing, but at the same time the colleges' problems are going to make the demographic issues even worse. From an economic and social standpoint, there is nothing good about what is happening to private colleges in Vermont."

Governor Scott Addresses Local Issues at Legislative Breakfast

By BENJY RENTON
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURY — While the scrambled eggs were hot, the topics of discussion were even hotter at the Addison County Governor's Breakfast. A group of around 40 residents and college students gathered in the Middlebury American Legion early on Monday, March 18 for breakfast with Governor Phil Scott and various Addison County state senators and representatives.

Addison is the only state county that hosts a legislative breakfast every Monday during the legislative session. Elected officials took the opportunity to update their constituents on the progress they and their committees have made in the Legislature. State senators Christopher Bray and Ruth Hardy discussed the debates and passing of bills relating to environmental regulations, rural economic development and a pilot program for career and technical education.

Governor Scott began the breakfast with a short speech outlining the three priorities of his administration: growing the economy, making Vermont more affordable and protecting the most vulnerable.

"To achieve this future, we need be honest about the challenges we face," he said. He also addressed Vermont's stagnant and aging population — since 2009, Vermont's labor force has declined by 15,000 workers and Addison County's public school enrollment has suffered a 25% decrease (1400 students) since 2004.

"That's not a recipe for economic growth," Scott said. "My agenda this session focuses on Vermonters finding a job and starting a career." Some of Scott's other priorities include increasing investments in education and early childcare, putting a tax on e-cigarettes and identifying residents interested in relocating to Vermont. "We need more taxpayers, not more taxes," Scott said.

Following the governor's speech, residents were invited to ask questions of their legislators and governor. Alec Fleischer '20.5 had the first question of the morning, asking Scott what actions he will take to combat the threat of climate change. Fleischer, who is a member of the Sunday Night Environmental Group and Divest Middlebury organizations on campus, cited the recent passage of bills during Middlebury's town meeting to support the 350VT Climate Solutions Resolution.

> ***"We need more taxpayers, not more taxes."***

"We're doing a pretty good job on the electrical front; we just need to do a better job on the transportation front," Scott said. He believes that protecting the environment and a strong economy go hand in hand.

Other questions delved into topics such as Vermont's healthcare system, the opioid crisis, a potential statewide plastic bag ban and weatherization. "I'm a conservative Vermonter, very frugal by nature, trying not to waste," Scott said when asked whether he would support S.113, an act currently in the legislature relating to the prohibition of plastic carry-out bags, expanded polystyrene and single-use plastic straws.

Middlebury resident Andrew Pezzulo asked Scott whether he would make Election Day a paid holiday in Vermont, mentioning the high turnout in Addison County of 64% in the 2018 midterm election. "It is a civic duty...I'm open-minded," Scott replied.

Later in the day, Hardy and Bray joined state representative Amy Sheldon '88 at a Center for Community Engagement "Lunch with Legislators," a program organized by the center's Privilege and Poverty academic cluster. Over lunch, the legislators discussed a variety of topics, including the environment, the county's economy, college-community relations and poverty alleviation.

Sponsored by the Bridport Grange No. 303 and the Addison County Farm Bureau, the next legislative breakfast will be held on March 25 at the Congregational Church in Salisbury.

Seymour St. Habitat Build

Continued from Page 3

experience for us; we wanted to be involved. I would say every class had somebody from our [Habitat] affiliate, and in most cases two or three people. So we really were part of the class, and it was a teamwork process."

Students also appreciated the collaborative energy that the Habitat members brought to the class.

"Even though a lot of them were Vermonters from older generations, they were really supportive in terms of different designs and trying out new things," said John Henry Hanson '20.5, who is an architecture major "They helped us echo the traditional styles of Vermont and New England architecture while still doing something new, all while staying within the budget."

Hanson also noted the power this style of class has to improve the Middlebury community.

"The major difference [between this class and other architectural design classes] is that you have to think inside the constraints of your budget, materials, etc. It goes to show that well-designed and nicely-made houses can be made on a smaller budget than they normally would be," said Hanson.

According to Hanson, this approach of using experiential learning to provide free, high quality services to the community should not be limited to the architecture department. "I could certainly see ways in which the structure could work for other majors," he said.

After breaking ground in April, the builders hope to accomplish a lot over the summer. The houses will be built by local volunteers, alongside the families that will eventually live in each house. Most of the volunteer building will occur on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but Middlebury students will have the opportunity to volunteer through the college HfH Club on some Saturdays as well.

The success of this project bodes well for the future of the Architecture Studies class. Students are currently working on designing four more houses that will be built in Vergennes. When asked about the what lies ahead for Habitat for Humanity's partnership with the college, Heineken responded optimistically.

"It's difficult to say what will happen in five to six years, but with the way things have gone, there's a lot of enthusiasm," he said.

McLeod shares Heineken's sentiments.

"I think it was wildly successful for all parties involved. We're in the second cycle [of the class], and the plan is to keep going indefinitely. In many ways, it's been one of the most rewarding things I've done both as a practitioner or a teacher," he said. "It's an incredible opportunity to work with bright students and a great client to bring affordable housing to our home community."

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Admissions Scandal Demands Reflection

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Last week, news broke that the Justice Department is charging dozens of wealthy parents with trying to cheat the college admissions system. Parents allegedly paid to have athletic and academic records fabricated, including SAT scores, and bribed college officials to help get their children into elite universities. This multi-million dollar scandal is disheartening but not entirely surprising, and it sheds light on the deep flaws within the American educational system.

It is frustrating that it took a large admissions scandal to unveil the fact of inequitable educational opportunities to the public. We hope the absurdity of the scandal will encourage admissions counselors, school administrators, athletic coaches, parents and students to think more critically about how educational institutions are not meritocratic systems and to work to increase access, diversity and equity.

The families involved in the scandal are wealthy: some parents work as CEOs of large companies, others as executives of real estate firms, and some are Hollywood actors. These families have the money for good private schools, SAT/ACT prep, summer enrichment programs and private college counselors. They already have a leg up in the admissions process — why resort to bribes and cheating?

In some cases, it seems as if the students implicated in the scandal didn't have a strong desire to go to college. But parents seemed to ignore this, encouraging their children to attend university. Perhaps this is because, in the age of helicopter parenting, parents view the name of their child's college as a direct reflection of their parenting skills.

Instead of encouraging their children to find schools with programs that reflect their interests and values, these parents decided they would send their children to elite schools, where prestige, parties and social networking are abound. If you're not interested in school or if money isn't a concern for you, then really all that matters is you get into a "good" school and just have fun for four years.

Parents and students took advantage of testing accommodations on standardized tests meant for students with disabilities. These accommodations are meant to level the playing field, giving students with diagnoses like dyslexia or ADHD extra time on tests. But, by encouraging students to claim they had a disability, families cheated the system meant to protect individuals with learning disabilities. We are angry this happened because it will likely make it difficult for those who really need accomodations to receive them in the future.

Many of the students involved in the scandal got into schools like Yale and the University of Souther California as "athletes." Sometimes parents would take staged photographs of their children playing a sport or even photoshop their child's head onto an athlete. These parents were taking advantage of the often privileged admissions process for athletes and exploiting it to its utmost. They knew that passing off their children as athletes could prove advantageous.

It's true that this would not have been possible without coaches and admissions officers accepting bribes or looking the other way, but it should also prompt reflection on the privileged admissions process that exists for different types of students, including athletes.

Middlebury College is not implicated in this scandal, and we believe that our coaches and admissions counselors operate with integrity. But the underlying problem of inequitable educational access is evident on our campus. Although we are one of thirty-six "need-blind" schools in the country that meet demonstrated financial need (for domestic, non-transfer students only), it is clear that we, either inadvertently or purposefully, select for wealthier students. Even if nothing about our admissions system is illegal, that does not make it perfectly moral.

Middlebury's athlete recruitment system deserves some renewed scrutiny. Though our Division III system works differently from the Division I schools implicated in "Operation Varsity Blues," we're troubled by the underlying idea that some students are privileged in the admissions process because they are good at a sport that often requires large amounts of money in order to practice.

Athletes at prestigious schools, Middlebury included, are usually hardworking, dedicated and smart students who balance schoolwork with travel, games, practice and other team activities. This doesn't take away from the fact that their athleticism may have helped them get in. In 2018, The Atlantic published a report on the relationship between admissions and college sports. 79 percent of Division III NESCAC student athletes were white last year, and athletes have an overall higher acceptance rate than non-athletes.

The college can do more to attract poor and middle class students by actively recruiting in neighborhood public schools across the country and not just at elite preparatory high schools. The college's affiliation with the POSSE Foundation brings diverse public school students to Middlebury who may not have even applied otherwise, but this is a leadership scholarship and is not based on financial need. We would like to see the college broaden its recruiting practices to inform more students about Middlebury and its options for financial aid.

Overall, this scandal is forcing people to talk about issues that have always been present in college admissions. We want to have a legitimate and fair admissions process because we want classrooms full of motivated, intelligent and thoughtful students with whom we can learn. We hope the colleges use this scandal as an opportunity to rethink the admission process and address educational inequality.

Notes From the Desk: Why Zeitgeist?

By BOCHU DING

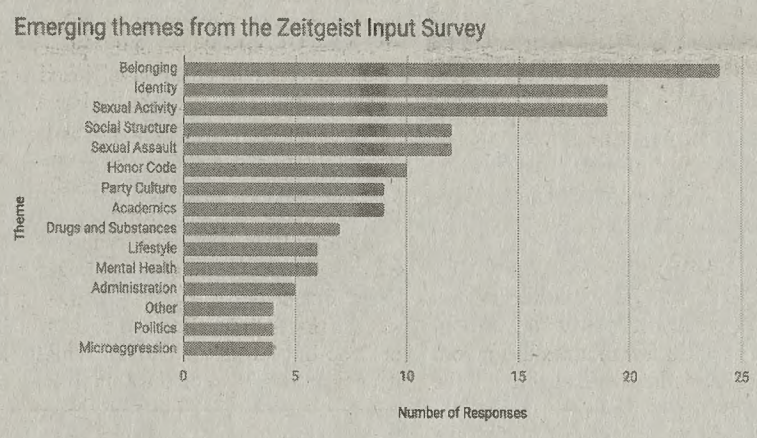
There are some things we know about Middlebury. That more than a tenth of all its students are Economics majors, that more than a fifth come from families in the richest 1 percent of the U.S. and that the college has an 8:1 student–faculty ratio.

What we don't know as clearly is how race is perceived on campus, what work-life balance looks like for the average Middlebury student, or what students truly think of party culture. These questions are left undiscussed because they are uncomfortable, nuanced and often difficult to approach.

Zeitgeist, The Campus' first annual student survey, aims to change that.

As a forum for the Middlebury community, The Campus' role is to tell its stories, whether they be conspicuous truths or underlying narratives waiting to be discovered. Combining data analysis and journalism, we hope to present these stories quantitatively and qualitatively in this project.

We want to explore topics that will not appear in an admissions brochure — how accessible mental health resources are, how the experiences of students of color differ from those of white students, and the realities of sexual health and relationships. We hope that Zeitgeist will create new openings for students to engage with difficult topics and that our findings will spark dialogue and lead to productive conversations within and between communities.



Sorted responses to the all-student email The Campus sent last week, requesting ideas for questions to ask in the Zeitgeist survey.

When we asked you for input in an email last week, we noted that "Belonging" emerged as a prominent theme, as indicated in the graph.

Students submitted questions for the survey such as: What made you feel othered? Have you ever experienced imposter syndrome? Do you feel like you miss out due to financial limitations? Do you want to transfer?

These questions tell us that many of us grapple with issues of affinity, acceptance and inclusion in a wide spectrum of ways. Our hope is that Zeitgeist will help each of us understand how we fit into the Middlebury puzzle. Please help us by participating in the survey that will be open for responses beginning April 2.

Bochu Ding is a member of the Class of 2021 and is The Campus' Information Insights Director.

On Flags in Ross Dining Hall

By GEORGE WERNER

On a red piece of cloth (two units tall, three units wide) are five yellow stars. What the stars mean, no one can really agree upon, but that is no pressing matter. The flag does not need to mean anything in and of itself in order to stake a claim to 3.7 million square miles of territory. However, that flag, which represents only the government of the People's Republic of China, now seems to be imposing itself upon the most mundane forms of personal expression.

Recently, a minor on-campus controversy has emerged on the matter of flags. Middlebury College's Student Government Association (SGA) has been considering hanging a set of national flags in Ross Dining Hall, each one representing a country to which a current student belongs. The idea is not original to Middlebury — Colgate University's Curtiss E. Frank Dining Hall is one example of a college cafeteria which already represents its students' diverse national origins this way. Yet, the initiative has nonetheless received criticism among certain Middlebury students. Their complaint? That Middlebury's SGA has dared to suggest hanging Taiwan's flag.

The controversy over Taiwan began in the aftermath of the Chinese Civil War as conflicting claims to power arose between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). Since the war, each government has recognized the other as illegitimate. Consequently, on an international level, the issue has only become more complex over time. In 1971 the Republic of China's seat on the UN Security Council was given to the People's Republic of China. Later in 1979, Congress passed into law the Taiwan Relations Act which gave Taiwan a degree of de facto recognition by the government of the United States, although the U.S. has maintained a strictly informal recognition of Taiwan since. Internationally, seventeen countries exclusively recognize the Republic of China while fifty-seven countries (including the United States) possess informal relations with Taiwan.

Clearly, regardless of the stance of the People's Republic, Taiwan is a country with de facto sovereignty as well as a good degree of formal and informal international recognition. Those students, then, who feel the hanging of the flag of the Republic of China is illegitimate, are advocating for the effective elimination of a country's nationhood. By insisting that the flag of the Republic of China be excluded from the rafters of Ross Dining Hall, they seek to define for the college (and, more importantly, the community) which countries are permitted to exist. This perspective seemingly suggests that the issue at stake is the political sovereignty of the People's Republic of China. Yet this view necessarily suggests that Middlebury College, an educational institution of 2,500 people in Vermont, somehow possesses the ability to determine which government of China is legitimate. That is nonsense.

Even setting aside the issue of the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China, there should be no reason for students to feel attacked on any grounds. Take that red, five-starred flag. If the flag of the Republic of China was hanging, would it be any smaller? If the flag of Tibet was hanging alongside it, would the flag be any less red? Would the five stars dwindle to four or to three? No, not at all. The only situation under which student supporters of the People's Republic of China would lose the representation of their national identity would be by removing the flag they believe represents them — a proposition which no student has publicly endorsed. These students would undoubtedly feel attacked by such an act, yet they intend to do the same to students of other national identities.

Students attending a college are not and should not be diplomatic agents of a foreign government. They are individuals with their own specific traits.

There are very real issues related to political jurisdiction in China. Whether the flag of the People's Republic hangs alone or with the Republic of China and/or Tibet should not be interpreted as an attack on people's civic identities. This would matter to the government of the People's Republic of China on the grounds that their authority depends on symbolic gestures. However, students attending a college are not and should not be diplomatic agents of a foreign government. They are individuals with their own specific traits. The idea that some students should be able to decide which flag represents another person's national identity is wrong on these grounds and many others.

It is not my intention to cast judgment on the geopolitical conflicts related to China. While I am no fan of the human rights abuses, denials of basic human liberties and oppositional posturing of the People's Republic of China, none of those factors should matter in the assessment of this issue. There is no reason why the individual rights of students should be violated because of political controversies which have no direct impact upon daily life at the college. Before the end of my time at Middlebury, I hope to see a wide assortment of flags representing all the national origins of students who attend the college.

George Werner is a member of the Class of 2021.

We Need the Hebrew Department

By HILLEL BOARD

Recently, Tamar Mayer, the head of the Hebrew Department, was denied her second request to hire a new Hebrew professor for next year. There is currently only one professor in the department, Oz Aloni, and his contract ends this semester. After Aloni's departure, students currently enrolled in Hebrew will not be able to continue with their studies and students who planned to minor in the language will not be able to do so. The lack of additional professors will affect all current and future Hebrew students; it will effectively end the Hebrew Department on this campus. As such, the administration's refusal to hire another professor would be an egregious error.

First and foremost, the Hebrew language department is central to Jewish life on campus. The Hebrew language is an integral part of the Jewish faith, and many students use the language to enrich their spiritual practice or as an entry point to exploring their Judaism. The inclusion of Hebrew within the Middlebury language program makes Jewish students feel welcome and seen in the community. Hebrew allows students to connect meaningfully and academically with a language that is part of their cultural identity. In fact, many Jewish students cite Middlebury's inclusion of a Hebrew program as a deciding factor in their college search as it represents the vitality of Jewish life on a campus. The decision not to hire another Hebrew professor would indicate to all current and prospective Jewish students where Middlebury's true priorities lie.

Outside of Hebrew's importance to Jewish students, Hebrew is a rich, fascinating language that deserves to be studied at the top language school in the country. Hebrew is part of the campus' lively interdisciplinary discourse, and its absence will not go unnoticed. Hebrew is inextricably linked to International & Global Studies (IGS), religious studies and comparative literature, among other fields. How can we offer a Middle Eastern focus in IGS without Hebrew? These crucial academic facets rely on the inclusion of the language.

Some "creative solutions" have been suggested, such as online satellite learning and the Hebrew summer school, but none will replace an in-person experience with a professor. Middlebury, which prides itself on being a language school, cannot claim to include a Hebrew program in its robust language curriculum and then force students to video-call a professor from a different university. Nor should it rely on its remarkable summer language programs; students who are already paying tuition should not have to pay additional tuition or forfeit earning a summer income to attend the Hebrew summer school, especially when they would not have the opportunity to practice their skills during the academic year. This is not an appropriate method for students to acquire the language, and it disadvantages students who want Hebrew to be a part of their year-long academic experience.

It is clear that this decision ultimately comes down to Middlebury's budget. We argue that the importance of Hebrew cannot be decided by numbers alone. Middlebury is an academic institution; this title implies a commitment to academic excellence above all else and a responsibility to make the campus inclusive to all students. Refusing to fill this position in the Hebrew Department would be a failure on both counts.

Notes from the SGA President

By NIA ROBINSON

Happy spring! Just a few updates before everyone leaves for break:

1. Go/heySGA – Reminder to use this form for any issues, comments, ideas, etc. that you would like to share with SGA! Thanks to everyone who has shared so far.

2. Election season is soon approaching! If you are interested in joining SGA in any capacity, look out for emails with more information. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to any SGA member if you have questions about their experience or want to hear more!

3. Help out admissions – If you are able to host a student (April 15th–16th) for preview days, visit go/pd-hosting for more information.

That's all for now. Best of luck with midterms and preparing for the second half of the semester!

Nia Robinson is a member of the Class of 2019 and is SGA president.

Foreign Correspondents: Thinking About America in Siberia

By SEAN HOWARD

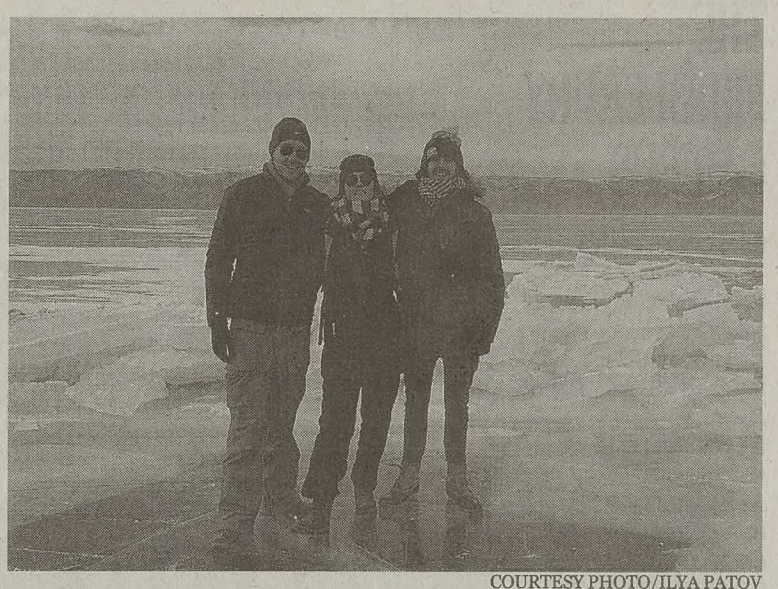
Alongside drinking crappy beer and "finding yourself," it is an American college tradition to be jaded about our country. I am no exception. I am a jaded, beer-drinking American college student trying to find himself. So, when it was time to go abroad, I was ready. I did not want to hear about the shutdown. I did not want to hear about an election still two years away. I escaped to Irkutsk, a medium-sized city deep in Russia's Siberia.

It was the perfect to place to go. I am meeting a people that fearlessly battle frigid temperatures and possess warm personalities that blossom over a cup of tea. I am learning a beautifully complex language that has both amazed and humbled me. I recently saw the stunning, frozen expanse of Lake Baikal — a true natural wonder. But the most surprising part is how I am learning a lot about America, too. I am learning to appreciate it. This is what's been in my head:

My car. Americans use cars for everything. Whether it be going to work, school, or Starbucks, there is almost always a car involved. In Irkutsk, public transportation reigns supreme, and it works well. Public busses and trams move tens of thousands of people everywhere around the city, every day. My personal favorite is the *marshutka,* which is a small van that weaves through traffic at dangerously high speeds, without seatbelts. *Marshutkas* during rush hour feel like Tavern parties on the first weekend of school, except everyone is completely silent. And if you want to get off, you must break the silence and yell out your stop. Awkward. But after a while, I began to miss my car. That feeling when you get to your car after a long day is irreplaceable. It is an "almost home" feeling that means "this is my metal box and I am safe inside of it." Throw some friends into the backseat, roll down the windows and turn up the music and you have a distinctly American experience. I admittedly kinda miss my nerdy Honda CRV.

The American College experience. College in Russia is a world away. Most Russian students grow up and go to college in the same city they were born in. This brings a welcoming sense of comfort in a challenging time of life. Mom, dad, brother, sister, and the dog are not far away. Most students don't live in dorms and go home after class instead, so the idea of college being more than just academics is almost nonexistent. For most Americans, it is the opposite. College is the capstone of our teenage angst. We get to leave high school and our hometown behind, so we can reinvent ourselves hundreds of miles away. This means our campus takes on a whole different meaning. Middlebury is more than just a school; it's a place where we live, laugh, cry and fall in love. We celebrate life and learning together for four years and complain about to-go containers while we're at it. A very American experience, indeed.

That quirky American spirit. It is well-known that Americans, especially young ones, are incredibly optimistic about their ability to shape their futures. Optimists say it is admirable. Pessimists say it is naive. My Russian friends don't share the same mindset. They are very realistic and pragmatic about things. They often accept the status quo and work with it. They may not plan to change the world, but they will do what they can, given the constraints. I know I share a similar mindset. Maybe that's why we get along. But that youthful American energy that wants to change the future is still something that I admire. And it is something I should pay more attention to. Just think about Middlebury. A dedicated commitment to tackling climate change by generations of Middkids is the reason why we are carbon neutral. It is why Middkids actively try to change their lifestyles to fight climate change. I always thought this American energy was naïve. But maybe I've changed my mind because it actually does deliver change.



COURTESY PHOTO/ILYA PATOV

Charles Smith '20, Annie Blalock '20.5, and Sean Howard '20 standing on frozen Lake Baikal in Irkutsk, Russia.

There are plenty of reasons to be frustrated about America. And we should be. Being content with the status quo is not a part of that quirky American spirit that wants to change the world. But my time abroad has convinced me that there are many things to be thankful for. Living in a small campus community dedicated to learning both in and outside of the classroom is something you don't see often outside of America. Blazing down the highway in a big SUV with the windows down, music up and the company of friends is a distinctly American experience. So, go study abroad and learn a new language and a completely different culture. You might learn something about America, too.

Sean Howard is a member of the Class of 2020.

Sex Panther: F*ck Foreplay

By SEX PANTHER

Editor's note: Throughout the semester you'll be reading articles from Middlebury students of different identities and experiences on all things sex and relationships.

Hellooooooo again, sex kittens! I have a topic to talk to y'all about this week that is very near and dear to my heart and that I am 100 percent certain needed to be canceled, like, yesterday. What could a sex-positive Sex Panther possibly have a vendetta against in the world of all things sexy?! Foreplay, of course.

Yeah. You read that right. Screw foreplay.

I mean it. Not the actions we associate with foreplay, of course, but the word. Besides rolling a little creepily off the tongue, the idea of foreplay really delegitimizes a lot of fun, feel-good sex. It reinforces that penis-in-vagina (PIV) sex is the be-all-end-all act constituting sex when that is just SO NOT TRUE. Besides feeding into repressive systems of power that go into dictating what gets to (culturally) count as "real" sex, foreplay as a concept naturally reinforces, on some level, the idea that a (cis) penis going in a (cis) vagina is the only natural or acceptable culmination of sexual activity. Foreplay as a concept is heteronormative. It is cisnormative. It is patriarchal, and it is officially canceled because it automatically places everything outside of PIV sex outside the realm of actual sex.

I say screw that — in whatever way that means to you. Because there are SO many more ways to have sex than just PIV, and there is SO much more pleasure to be found once you start to break down those internalized notions about the "right" way to screw. Sex isn't a checklist, and it sure ain't a baseball game. So throw out the bases, because the only agenda you should be holding yourself to is the one you and your partner(s) make together.

I guess my issue here is really with how we define sex. Our restrictive definition of sex (missionary, PIV, etc.) automatically means we have to create an extra category just to fit all the other — arguably more fun and exciting — stuff (like oral sex and sex with toys). In the European middle ages, the handy label of "sodomy" did the trick of covering the "other" category. No, really. Basically, any act that was not procreative, missionary, PIV, and religiously ordained could and often did fall under the category of "sodomy" as a sexual sin. This repressive culture of sex has carried over to today, when what we call foreplay is presented as non-essential and even frivolous.

Frivolous? How dare they?! Getting my titties tickled creates sensations of pleasure just as much as touching my clit or being penetrated. Why let this antiquated hierarchy of pleasure based on legitimacy and respectability — and ourselves — keep us from inhabiting our own bodies and owning our own pleasure? This is my problem with foreplay. There's no room to say "I don't actually want anything in my pussy at the moment, but I will cum for you if you pinch my tits and talk dirty to me, babe," with no other alternative than orgasm. If that's not what you want if you don't want to (be) penetrate(d) but want to have sex, there is a massive social consciousness that says, 'Actually, no, that doesn't count as sex,' even though it TOTALLY DOES.

I am not arguing against taking time to turn each other on, to explore the softness and hardness and curviness of each other's bodies, to finger or fellate, to break out the nipple clamps and blindfolds. Please, by all means keep doing that. Just stop calling it foreplay.

Instead, why can't we broaden our definition of what sex means? Why can't we eradicate PIV intercourse as the pièce de résistance and honor the pleasure our bodies feel from all the other wonderful methods of stimulation available to us? That's not to say we should shun PIV intercourse altogether by any means. What I am saying is that we need to see it as simply an option on an extensive menu of sex. Prioritize pleasure, not the penis.

As a queer person who is not too titillated by penis, I challenge you to tell me that the sex I'm having with my partner(s) at any given time isn't sex just because there's no penis involved. Because to me, that's laughable. To me, the sex and pleasure I pursue is infinitely better. It ignores the naturalized progression of sex and instead empowers everyone involved to ask for what they want and to savor every sensation without feeling like there's some end-goal to get to. Call it what you will, but recognize that everything outside the realm of PIV intercourse is also sex.

From this point of view, the concept of foreplay just doesn't make sense. Everything we do is sex and everything we do is foreplay and everything we do can be both at the same time. So don't tell me that eating someone out, or mutual masturbation, or fingering, or frottage don't count as sex. Don't tell me they're just foreplay. Those sources of pleasure are just as intense, just as important and just as valid as PIV intercourse. It means that sex is still something accessible to everyone; folx of different genders and sexual orientations, folx with disabilities or traumas, folx with STIs or folx for whom placing a penis in an orifice simply isn't a viable or safe option. So this is my manifesto against foreplay. Only my partner(s) and I get to determine what counts as sex for us, and we don't believe in foreplay.

Shirley Temple and the Optimistic Orphan Trope

By CHRISTINE MCDOW

If I were to survey fellow members of our Middlebury community about the origins of the optimistic orphan trope in American popular culture, those adept in literary illusions would likely point to Charles Dickens' classic novel Oliver Twist while those versed in American film would likely point to the musical Annie. The latter 1982 American classic film and its 2014 remake tell the story of little girl named Annie whose parents abandoned her at a New York orphanage during the Great Depression leaving only a locket and a letter articulating their intention to return for their darling girl in better times. Annie's life trajectory is permanently altered when a wealthy Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks (a not-so-subtle aside to the reality that capitalists accumulate wealth from the wartime bloodshed of labor) offers her salvation from poverty and orphanhood, agreeing to adopt Annie as his daughter. The film's conflict is established when Mr. Warbucks attempts to search for the orphan's parents and fraudulent couples, in desperation, attempt to fabricate their relation to the abandoned orphan child. Conflict is resolved when Annie's parents are pronounced dead and she is adopted into a new family. This is the trope of the orphan girl using her optimism to overcome obstacles.

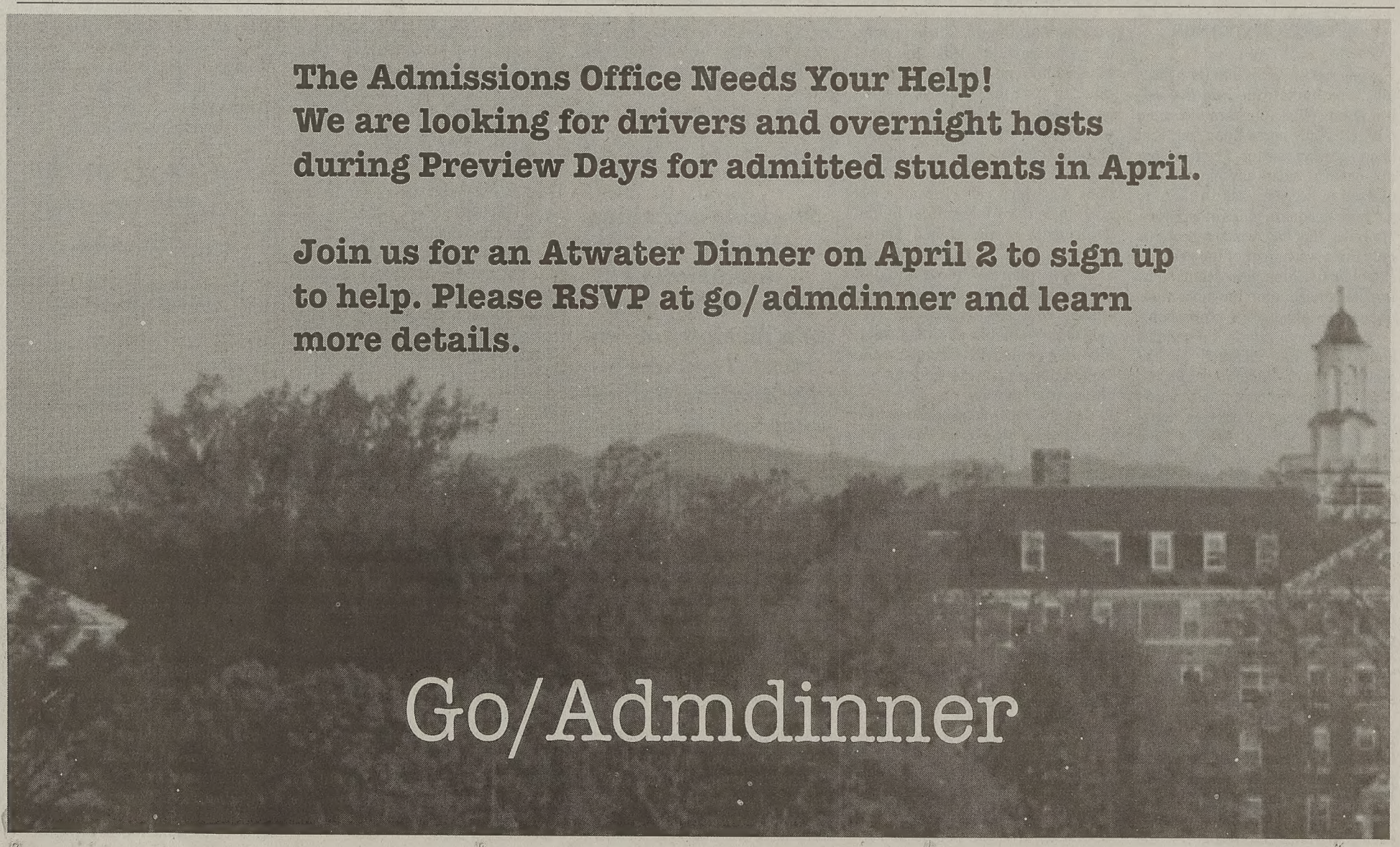
Yet anyone who traces the origins of the optimistic orphan to Annie is a man with a muckrake whose preoccupation with the manure of contemporary media culture distracts him from the shining child star overhead who redefined the meaning of celebrity and stardom in American popular culture history: Shirley Temple.

At the height of her fame, 19 men were employed full-time to write movie scripts to help America's princess lift the spirit of the country out of the mire of the Depression. The basic plot for a Shirley Temple film was to present Shirley's character to the audience, kill off her parents, attach the orphan to a middle-aged man, establish conflict through a custody battle, and allow Shirley's delightful dancing, charming singing, and infectious optimism to resolve the conflict, ending the story on a high note. At least 15 Shirley Temple films, including Bright Eyes ('34), Curly Top ('35), Dimples ('36), Heidi ('37), and Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farms ('38), follow this plot. The theme was always the same: if you have strength of character, optimism and self-reliance, you too can be as happy as Shirley.

Deeply entangled in the trope of the optimistic orphan is the myth of the normal child; the notion that all children are resilient and easily recover from hardship. With her darling dimples, porcelain skin and golden curls, America's princess gave the myth of the normal child a charming face. Telling the story that all children could be as happy as Shirley if they just kept believing in capitalism and the American dream functioned as "a real tonic" in 1930s America. Modern critics lavish her as an American cultural icon, saying, "[she was] what we wanted to believe America represented, what we wanted to believe the United States represented." Yet others critique these simplified narratives of using one's optimism to overcome obstacles, suggesting that this storytelling fulfilled America's hunger for escapist entertainment by enabling them to "actively distract themselves in lavish fantasy worlds." Mostly notably, FDR has reportedly said of Temple, "as long as we have Shirley Temple, we will be alright." From the poor house to the White House, Shirley was truly America's little girl.

As we celebrate Women's History Month this March, I would like to take the time to consider how Shirley Temple Black's lifetime achievement in acting and performance redefined the role of women on the silver screen. Scholars often trace the origin of the girl hero to Shirley. Yet the reality that Shirley's stardom was used to sell products, politics, and ideologies is extremely complicated. Thus, I invite you to join me as we consider how Shirley Temple Black's childhood acting career and adult career in politics has shaped the American popular imagination about what it means to be a girl.

Christine McDow is a member of the Class of 2021.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The Excellent Mediocrity, Mediocre Excellence of Franz Schubert

By **BENJAMIN BEESE**
Staff Writer

Schubert's piano pieces for four hands are so mediocre, in a sense, as to be especially excellent.

Piano masters Alexander Melnikov and Andreas Staier, hailing respectively from Russia and Germany, performed a wide selection of these pieces by Franz Schubert last Friday as part of the Mahaney Performing Arts Series.

Mediocre is the wrong word, by far, to be using for these pieces and yet, I struggle to select a more appropriate one: they fall between extremes, occupying a high middle ground of art. A somewhat appropriate description comes from the TV Show A Good Place in which Manny Jacinto's character explains a "scale from one to thirteen [where] eight [is] the highest. It goes up and then back down like a tent."

Mediocre is the wrong word, by far, to be using for these pieces and yet, I struggle to select a more appropriate one: they fall between extremes, occupying a high middle ground of art.

The Schubert pieces played were an eight, middle of the road and yet the best. The problem here is that Schubert is not Bach. His pieces are not dramatic like, say, Bach's Prelude and Fugue No. 2 or his Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Nor is Schubert Debussy. His music is not dreamlike and ephemeral like Nuages or Clair de Lune. The comparisons could go on; he's no Liszt or Mozart either. Schubert's pieces here were not deeply moving per se but nor were they light and frivolous. They were not overwhelming, they did not transport one to a different state, but yet they were consistently intriguing and engaging. As I was trying to find a proper adjective, I considered both "pretty," and "nice," — because they were. Although there is no cause to diminish them as such. The pieces were beautiful and seemingly nothing more.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Alexander Melnikov and Andreas Staier play Franz Schubert's pieces for four hands on piano for in the Mahaney Performing Arts Series.

There came a point when this quality started raising particular questions about the state of Schubert's art. What was the point of such music? It didn't seem to come from any deep emotions. No anguish or true love stemmed from them. Did they stem from fears? Joy? Awe? Or were they simply playthings for Schubert to share with his friend and student the Comtesse (countess) Caroline von Esterházy? They were too good to be shallow pieces written without emotion and yet not raw enough to be deep personal expression.

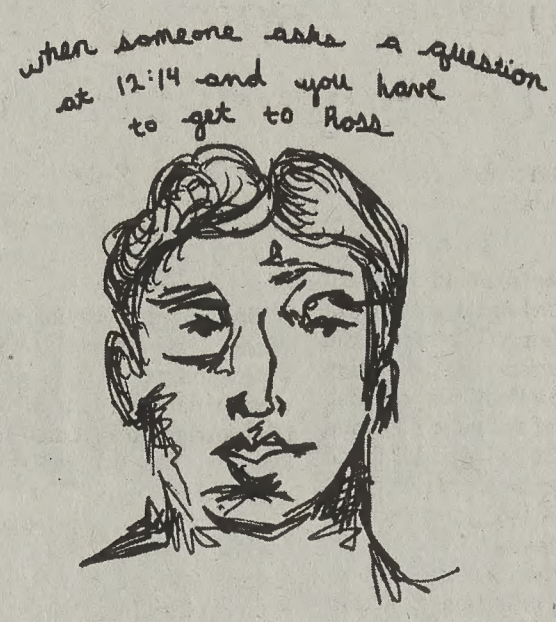
Again, I found myself circling around a middle ground — and yet, they were excellent.

There was certainly a range. Some pieces were light and very much felt like a plaything for a Comtesse. Take the first piece, the third of Six Grande Marches in B minor. It slid around, sometimes a light, at times flowery tune punctuated by deeper, stronger interludes. The first of the Ländler also had a prominent sense of levity through much of it. It could easily be an exercise written simply for the amusement of two flirtatious pianists. And yet the second Ländler was much more ominous, more mysterious. The third, exhilarating, producing much the same feeling as one gets when cruising along a sunny road in summer.

Take this in contrast to the closing piece, on the other end of the program: the Fantasia in F Minor. This piece was, of all the night's program, the most dramatic. Dedicated to the Comtesse, whom one friend called Schubert's "ideal love," the piece has a definite sense of wistfulness. This is raw, especially in comparison to the tighter pieces earlier in the program. Still, it seems to restrain the possible outflow of emotions that one might find with a different artist. That is to say, one neither shakes nor swoons upon hearing it, but one is nonetheless entirely engaged.

Ultimately, I cannot answer any of the questions or contradictions raised above, perhaps a musicologist of higher degree would be better addressed, but there is something I find intriguing about the idea of Schubert's mediocre excellence. He clearly had the technical genius with which he could have unleashed the same shivering chills, bone rattles and heart wrenching emotional catharsis that other composers have left us. Equally possible (although as the vanguard of the budding Romantic spirit, perhaps only anachronistically possible) was his potential to create immersive soundscapes that release into the imagination a Bacchanal flood like the later impressionists.

But he doesn't. Instead, he produced music that is so simply well-crafted that no other quality distracts from its excellence. The music, and not the effect that it produces, pulls in the listener's attention. The listener can't help but acquiesce.



PIA CONTRERAS

Reel Critic: 'Zama'

By **SOFIA MAKAROVA**
Contributing Writer

From its very first moment, you are submerged into the intoxicatingly chaotic and bewildering world of colonial Argentina — into the world of "Zama." Based on the 1956 novel written by Antonio Di Benedetto, "Zama" follows the story of a Spanish officer, Don Diego de Zama, as he attempts to obtain a transfer letter from the King. A letter which never arrives. He feels cheated by the system and hopeless in his attempts to better his own life and return to his children.

The elaborate costumes, breathtaking landscapes and incredible wildlife all contribute to the authentic aesthetic of the film, based on the 1956 novel written by Antonio Di Benedetto.

But not all is focused on beauty in this film. Throughout, there are scenes of disease and violence that are as present and as inevitable as the tropical heat itself. For instance, Zama's close friend, El Oriental, contracts cholera and dies amidst Zama's blooming relationship with the noblewoman, Luciana — a relationship which then turns out to be as false and contrived as Zama's hopes of a transfer. While Zama seems stunned, everyone else around him remains unmoved. His other interactions had a similar sense of frivolity and deception, creating a resounding feeling of isolation not only for the officer but the audience as well.

Although there is a palpable cultural barrier to those unfamiliar with the period's history and the Spanish tongue, the emotive language of the film is genuine and familiar.

After many years of relentless disappointment and fruitless relations, the officer joins a search party to capture an infamous criminal, Vicuña Porto. The criminal is blamed for every wrongdoing and calamity in Zama's town and serves as an overarching scapegoat for the bureaucracy. Porto joins the group alongside Zama in the search party for himself, unknown to anyone but the officer. Zama discovers that the criminal is not in fact the omnipresent and vile villain which the apparatus paints him to be — Vicuña Porta is searching for the same light as Zama in the vast swamp of colonial corruption.

In an ironic and cruel twist, Zama tries to explain to Porto the futility of his mission, the lack of hope in his endeavors. He tells Porto, "I am trying to tell you what no one told me before," Porto responds by mutilating Zama.

Although there is a palpable cultural barrier, to those unfamiliar with the period's history and the Spanish tongue, the emotive language of the film is genuine and familiar. Director Lucrecia Martel makes an interesting decision to omit subtitles for the native language speaking scenes of the film. As if to say that amidst the backdrop of colonization, this part should be left untouched.

The plot itself is cyclical and remains in the confines of Zama's struggles against the backwards nature of his government. At times difficult to watch, it established true empathy towards the officer, as his frustrations become your own.

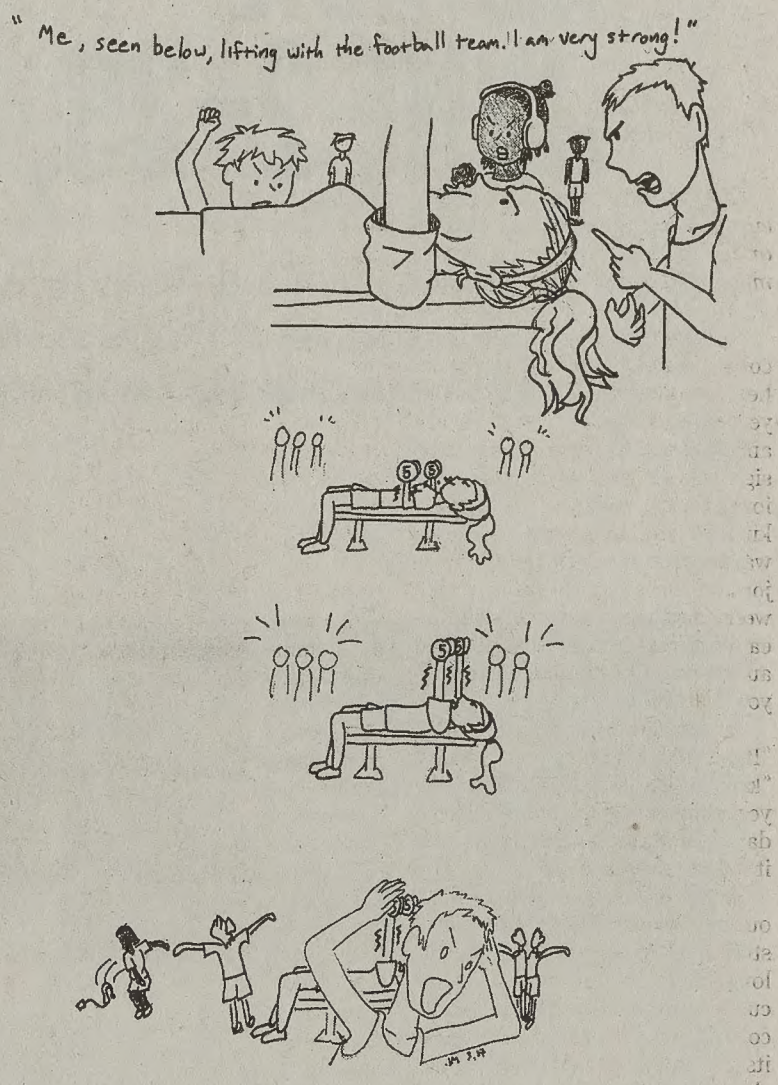
The film moves slowly; it takes its time. It leaves no choice but to pay attention to every look, every line and every long pause which would otherwise be lost. It's deeply emotional and conceptual, much more so than it is climactic or even conclusive. Zama answers no questions, but asks plenty in return.

I left the theater unsettled but fully enthralled by the fascinating yet daunting portrait painted by this film. There is a tale told at the start of the film, of a fish that spends its entire life swimming against the current of the water which tries to spit it onto the shore. It fights to stay stagnant all the while hoping to swim farther. Zama is ultimately a story of expectation, desire and the perpetual question of destiny. Will we, or won't we?

COURTESY PHOTO
"Zama", shown in the Hirschfield Film Series, is based on a 1956 novel by Antonio Di Benedetto.

Doctors may say lack of sleep leads to poor exam grades, but if there's one thing I've traded sleep to learn from econ it's that Correlation ≠ Causation!

JENNY MOSS



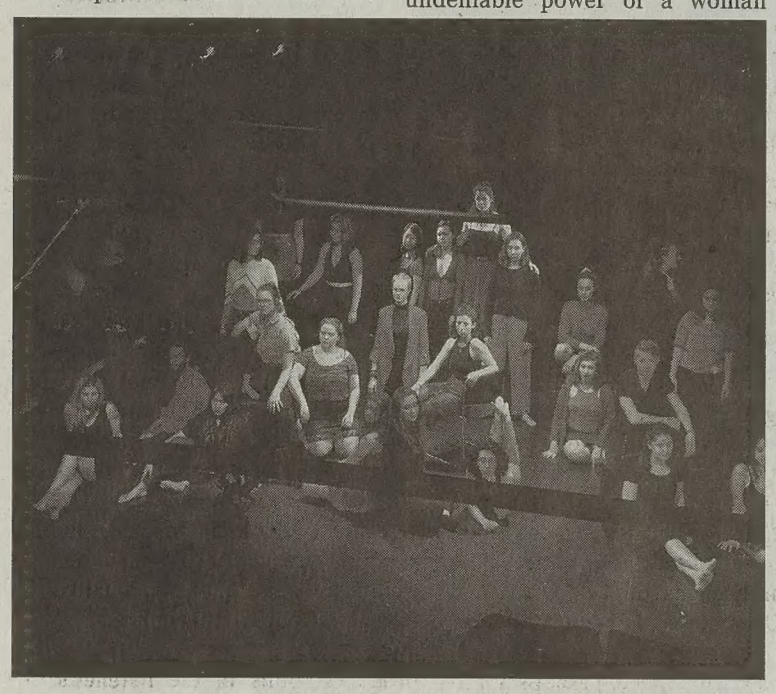
JENNY MOSS

Beyond the Vagina (Monologues) Speaks to Contemporary, Diverse Feminism

By MIYO MCGINN
Contributing Writer

This Friday night in Hepburn Zoo, as I watched the full cast of womyn and femmes dressed in red and black perform My Revolution Begins in the Body, the opening monologue of this year's Beyond the Vagina (Monologues), I found myself remembering a cab ride I took through Delhi one Saturday night in September.

Beyond the Vagina (Monologues) is a collection of performance pieces in the tradition of Eve Ensler's groundbreaking 1994 feminist theater piece "The Vagina Monologues." In September I was on my way home with my friend Maya, driving through the chaotic streets of Delhi and talking about the performance by Indian dancer and theater artist Maya Krishna Rao we'd just watched called "Loose Woman."



COURTESY PHOTO

The two performances were, of course, quite different. Rao wore rope sandals and makeup that was dramatic, bordering on grotesque, as she stomped and gestured in the kathakali style (a form of traditional Indian dance historically performed by men) while delivering her monologue. I'm sure I missed ninety-nine percent of the meaning she was trying to convey, given my limited understanding of Hindi, Indian culture and dance, but I was nonetheless captivated by Rao's commanding strength and charisma for the entire two-hour performance.

Beyond the Vagina (Monologues) was in English, performed by my classmates and mostly devoid of dancing — with the notable exception of Caleb Green's beautiful original choreography to Andrea Gibson's "Your Life" – but the entire performance still viscerally reminded me of Rao's "Loose Woman." Both performances illustrate the palpable, undeniable power of a woman unapologetically taking up space, power that's recognizable in a way that can transcend the particulars of language and culture.

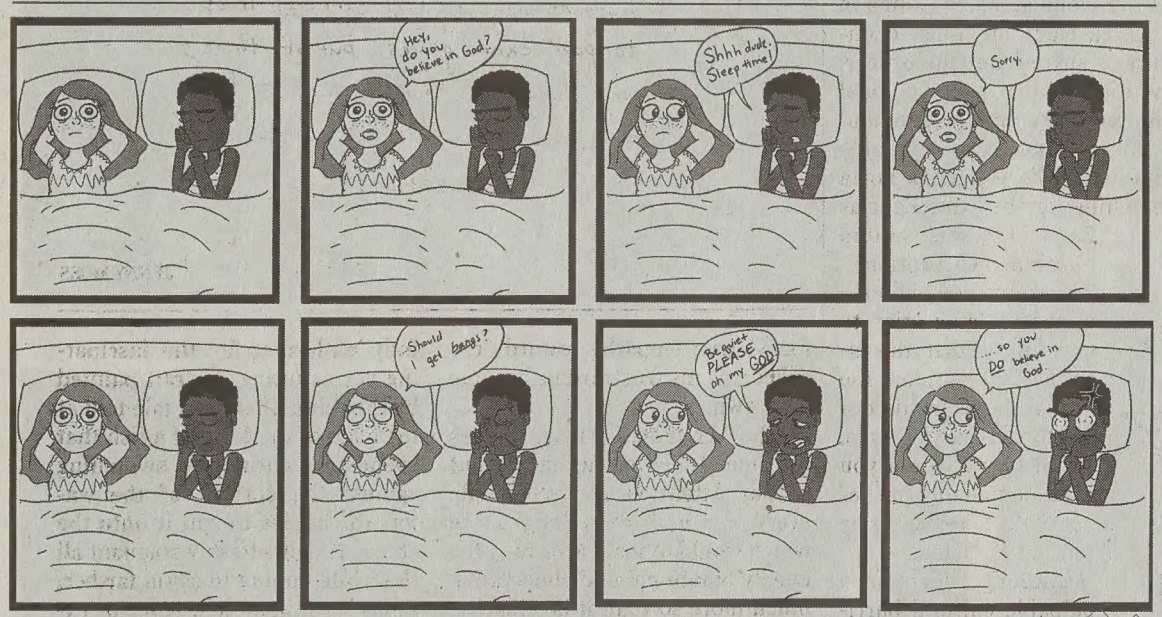
Empowering female and non-binary identifying individuals wasn't the only goal of the Monologues. Breaking the silence was another. Co-directors and producers Stella Boye-Doe and Steph Miller say that they hope the show starts conversations that continue on campus. "It's about breaking down stigma, starting to talk about things that are taboo right now," said Miller.

Described in the program as having "a new eye for inclusivity and intersectionality," Beyond the Vagina (Monologues) builds on the 1996 "Vagina Monologues" by "recogniz[ing] the extent to which our global conversations of womanhood, femme, gender, sexuality and identity have changed and grown." Boye-Doe and Miller spent winter term selecting the monologues and pieces that would speak to a contemporary, diverse feminism.

After only about three weeks of rehearsals, the company put on a show that covered a range of subjects, from sex and pleasure, to assault and trauma, to gender identity. In addition to three original monologues written and performed in this year's show, there were also sketches and monologues from Ensler's original script, as well as past performances of Beyond the Vagina (Monologues).

The range of topics was matched only by the range of tones struck by the performers over the course of the night, and sometimes in a single scene. A monologue called "MeToo is a movement, not a moment," adapted from a TED Talk given by the movement's founder Tarana Burke, made me tear up. Immediately afterwards, two women armed with dark red lollipops came on stage for "Reclaiming Cunt," poetically reminding the audience of the power of a woman in command of her own sexuality. A funny song about what a scary time it must be to be a man was followed by a group of women talking about their vaginas, gracefully moving between humor, relatability and exasperation. After one woman helps another find her clitoris in "Clit" with perfect comedic timing, sex positivity and a little help from a mirror, a large portion of the company implored the audience to embrace their flaws and imperfect humanity — their "ugly" — and remember that "you are magnificent," in the final monologue, "Moving Towards Ugly."

More could be said about each component piece that comprised this year's Beyond the Vagina (Monologues). But Maya's words in the cab that night after watching Rao dance in September best capture the feeling I walked out of Hep Zoo with on Friday: "That made me feel like I don't at all want to be a woman who is quiet."



KAITLYND COLLINS

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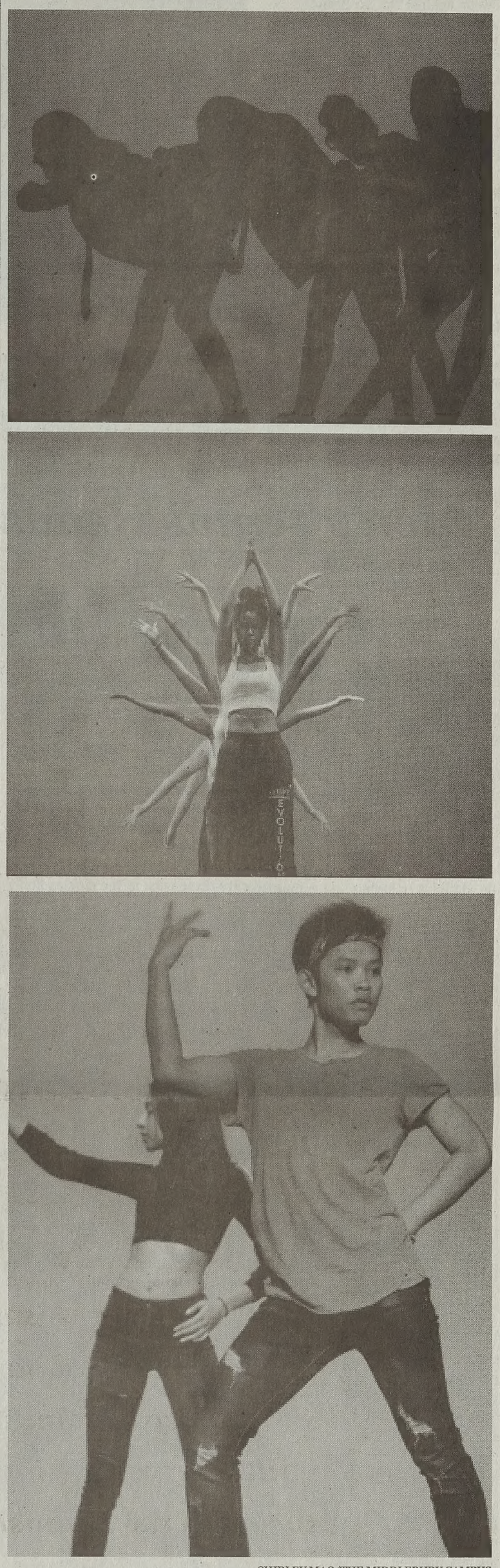


SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

WRMC Meet Your DJ: Mikaela Chang

By MAIA SAUER
Contributing Writer

Student DJ Mikaela Chang discusses what makes radio special and shares her recent picks of music and campus events.

"I didn't know anything about college radio," Chang says about her introduction to WRMC four years ago. It was all word of mouth, and she and a friend decided to sign up without any prior opinions. Chang calls her first show kind of embarrassing. The idea was to pick songs in relative major and minor key signatures each week, and the show's description earnestly encouraged the intended audience: "Confuzzled? Tune in, you'll get it."

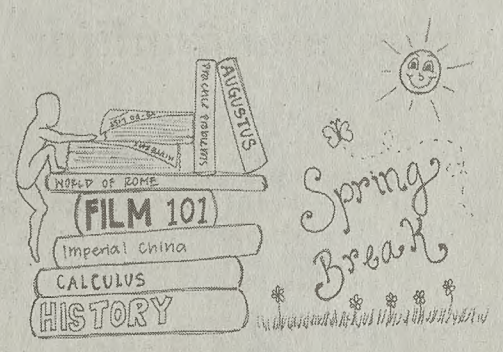
As for Chang's current show: "It's called 'ho hum,'" she smiles, "kind of like a sigh, but also like you're in thought." It airs Thursday nights from 10 to 11 p.m., and it is Chang's musical diary.

"I wanted the solo space to flesh out my own thoughts." ho hum's stream of consciousness style allows Chang to actively analyze her current music choices. The show's content has changed notably since its beginning in Fall of 2016, but she still enjoys the personal, sometimes scary experience of sharing her ideas on air. "They're thoughts you would write in a journal," she says, not necessarily things one would easily tell the listening public face-to-face.

The show also revolves around her desire to share meaningful discussions with other Middlebury students. "Hey stranger — it's been a minute! Let's talk," the description reads. Chang describes the experience of seeing people around campus and feeling the impossibility of holding a long conversation. Radio, she finds, is an effective medium to make those exchanges happen.

COURTESY PHOTO
WRMC DJ Mikaela Chang's current radio show 'ho hum' serves as a personal musical diary.

Additionally, Mikaela is on WRMC's executive board as part of the concerts committee. She enjoys working behind the scenes and, "hearing about what the audience wants." She also acknowledges the unfortunate enduring image of WRMC as an exclusive organization and considers part of her role to be working to dispel that. "I hate that there are still people who are scared of [WRMC]." She recognizes some competing visions for the station and varying levels of perceived inclusivity from different students. "Straight up, explicitly, I wanted to be a representative of Middlebury's POC community." Chang hopes that the future of Middlebury college radio continues to involve diverse participation and creativity from a wide range of students.



SARAH FAGAN

To find new music and updates, "I heavily, heavily depend on Spotify," Chang admits. She uses the Release Radar and genre categories. "R&B Soul is something I listen to a lot." Inevitably, though, she still misses many exciting releases. "It's awesome and also the most stressful thing ever."

Chang's recent music picks include a new album, "sleepless in _____" by Epik High (Chang describes them as "an old Korean hip-hop group") and the music video for Doja Cat and Rico Nasty's collaboration, "Tia Tamera."

"Tierra Whack just came out with a couple singles, too," she suggests.

Asked to put together a spring break playlist, Chang had a hard time narrowing it down.

"When I think about going home, for some reason I play a lot of Frank Ocean...I don't know why, but I'd probably just be listening to anything by him." Also on the list were Latin trap artist Bad Bunny and some reggaetón, along with a nod to her mom's music taste: "My mom really likes K-pop, and so I'd probably be listening to a lot of BTS. She's a hardcore fan."

Chang also stressed exploring the events happening right on campus. "If there's anything that four years at Midd has taught me, it's that there is always something cool happening." She highlights WRMC's annual spring concert, Sepomana, this April and the Korean Culture Show on May 3. She also recommends checking out arts events in the Gamut Room, at the Mill, and at the MAC.

WRMC has just released an app to make listening even easier — search WRMC Radio on the App Store or Google Play to keep up with Mikaela's show and explore the others happening almost all day, every day.

Women's Tennis Serves Up Heat Against Brandeis

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

The Middlebury women's tennis team, now 2-0, continued their killer start to the season with a 9-0 sweep against No. 20 Brandeis (3-4) this past Saturday in the Nelson Recreation Center.

Once again, the Panthers showed no mercy as they started off the match by taking all three points during doubles play. The team dedicated an extensive portion of their training to honing in on doubles play during the fall and winter seasons, which proved effective on the court. No. 3 tandem of Maddi Stow '21 and first-year Nora Dahl secured an 8-1 victory over Brandeis' Sophia He and Ana Hatfield, while the junior duo of Katherine Hughes and Skylar Schossberger doubled the lead with an 8-2 win in the top spot against Olivia Leavitt and Lauren Bertsch. In the No. 2 position, the tandem of Heather Boehm '20 and Ann Martin Skelly '21 secured the Panthers' 3-0 doubles lead with an 8-3 victory over Diana Dehterevich and Karen Khromchenko.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Junior Skylar Schossberger dishes out a backhand in a doubles match.

"The Brandeis team is very mentally strong and they will fight until the very last point is played, so we were very happy with how we responded to that challenge," captain Christina Puccinelli '19 said.

The Panthers were relentless in singles play as well. Puccinelli made the score 4-0 after she cruised past Khromchenko 6-2, 6-0 in the third spot. At the top of the lineup, Hughes posted a 6-3, 6-3 over Dehterevich, while Boehm triumphed 6-0, 6-3 over Leavitt in the second slot. Schossberger clinched a 6-1, 6-2 win over Bertch in the fourth slot, while Stow gave the Panthers an 8-0 advantage with a 6-1, 6-3 victory at No.5 over He. To top things off, Emily Bian '21 completed the sweep at the sixth position after she clinched a 7-6(2), 6-2 victory against Hatfield.

"Over the next few weeks, we will be playing against some very strong teams and we can't wait to see how we stack up against them," Puccinelli said. "We have had a strong start to the season but there are still many more matches to play before the NCAA's, so we're all pretty confident that the best is yet to come."

The sixth-ranked Panthers will return to the courts for their five-match marathon in California during their spring break trip. Competition will start at Cal State LA on Sunday, March 24 at 1 p.m. eastern. If the team continues to follow their current trajectory, the trip should give them the momentum to continue on their path towards winning the NCAA championship.

Men's Tennis Heads Into Spring Break Undefeated

By JACK KAGAN
Senior Writer

The defending national champion Panthers in tennis remain undefeated after a home weekend during which they beat two ranked opponents in No. 10 Brandeis and No. 33 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Brandeis made an incredible jump from the mid-20's in the national rankings after a win over 11th-ranked Pomona-Pitzer. They were the first to arrive at the Nelson Recreation Center to challenge the Panthers. First up were the doubles matches as captain Lubo Cuba '19 and partner Nate Eazor '21 secured an 8-6 victory to tally their ninth win as a duo for the year. Aleksander Samets '20 and Andre Xiao '21 teamed up to notch their 10th win together in a tight contest that took them to a tiebreak to win 8-7 (7-3). Last off the courts were Peter Martin '19 and Alex Vanezis '20 in a new doubles pairing that saw Martin grab his 11th doubles win of the year, completing the sweep for the Panthers and giving them a 3-0 lead going into singles play.

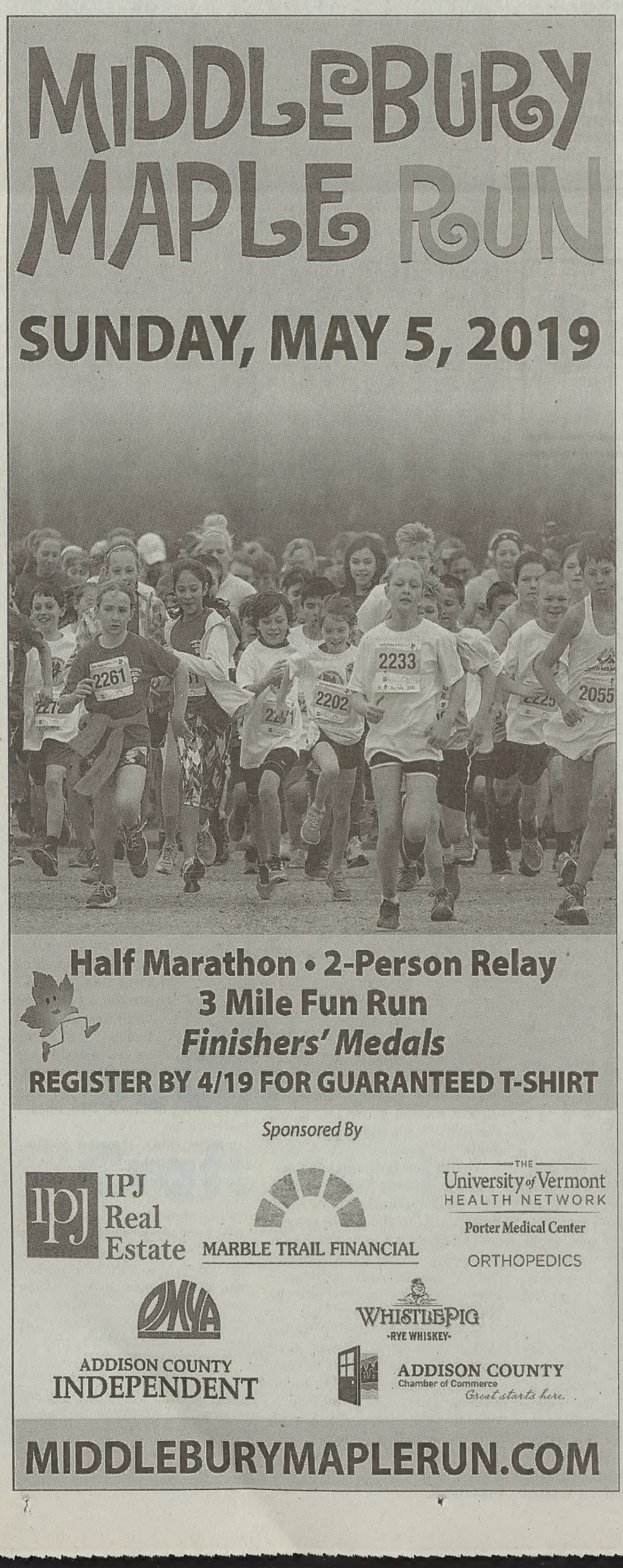
The lead certainly helped the Panthers, as they saw Brandeis secure three wins in the singles portion of the day. First-year Stanley Morris lost a straight-set contest playing up at the No. 2 as the team went without veteran standout Noah Farrell '19. The defeat was just the second loss of the entire season for Morris. The Panthers, suffering from five of their players playing a spot higher than normal, saw Xiao lose at the No. 3 spot in an incredibly tight third set tiebreak to the Judges' Adam Tzeng, a four-star recruit out of Eagle, Idaho.

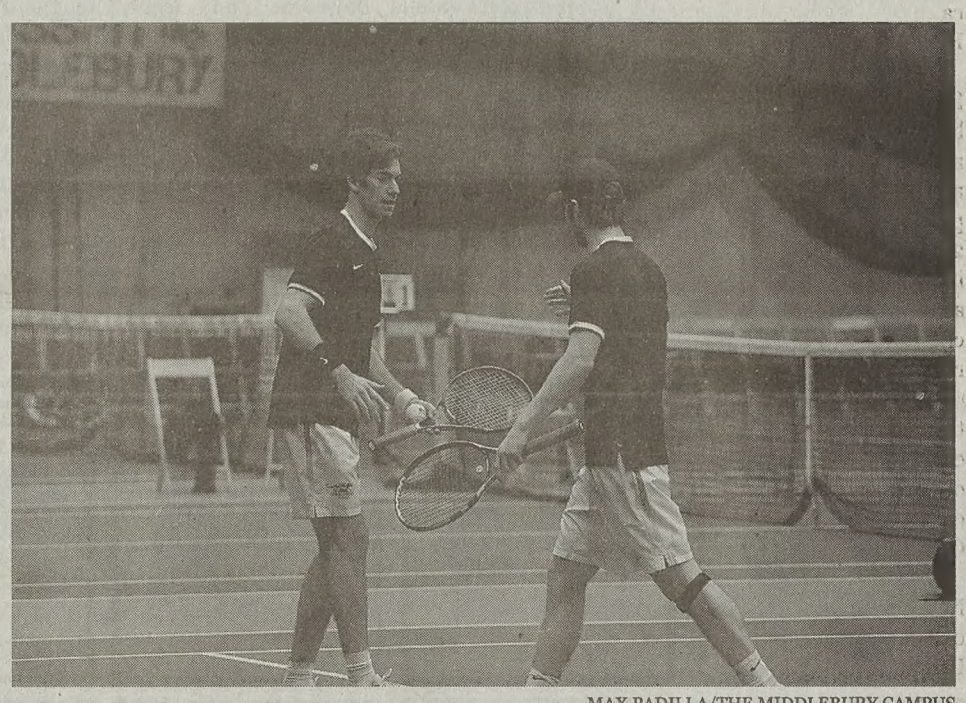
Another Brandeis first-year shined at the No. 5 spot against Middlebury's Eazor, as four-star recruit Jeffrey Chen cruised to a 6-3, 6-0 victory. However, the experienced Panther squad made the difference down the stretch. Cuba prevailed in a straight-set victory that pushed him to a tiebreak in the second set as he remains undefeated this spring.

Adam Guo '21 continued his impressive campaign with his fourth straight win of the spring, bringing him to 11-4 overall, all coming from a player who rarely saw time in dual matches. He steamrolled over Brandeis' Nikhil Das, 6-1, 6-2. Vanezis rounded out the scoring with an easy straight-set victory for his third win of the spring.

The next day would be a little bit different indeed as the Panthers went on to blank the Rensselaer Red Hawks. Bigger tests lie ahead as the Panthers fly out to California just after classes end for their annual spring break trip to California.

Notable competition for the Panthers' trip includes Division I UC Irvine, who is 9-4 on the year, sitting atop the Big West conference standings. At the end of their trip they will face perhaps some of their most important opponents of the year in recurring west coast rivals No. 14 Pomona-Pitzer and No. 6 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.





MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Doubles partners Alex Vanezis '20 and Peter Martin '19 high-five after taking the lead.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Lubo Cuba '19 tosses up a serve against Brandeis' David Aizenberg.

Softball Starts Strong

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

This weekend, the Middlebury Softball team had its season opener and won all four games they played. They managed to pull off the wins despite having double headers both Saturday and Sunday against New Rochelle and Drew. On Saturday, the Panthers set off the season right, scoring in every single inning. They swept the floor against New Rochelle, clearing the opener at 11-0. They carried that success onto the second game, where they brought it home at 13-3.

The Panthers brought the fire again against Drew, ending the first game in seven innings at 8-2 and the second game in five innings at 11-0. Rookie Noelle Ruschil '22 and Sara Tobias '22 electrified us all with back to back homers in the fourth inning of the first game against Drew. "Starting off undefeated properly shows the effort put in during the offseason," said Ruschil '22, when asked how she felt about the teams success.

Over the weekend, two players earned NESCAC honors. Sophia Marlino '22 and Irene Margiotta '19 were awarded Player of the Week and Pitcher of the week, respectively. Marlino ended her first four college games with a batting average of .643 and driving in 11 runs and scoring in nine times. Rookie Marlino also impressed with three home runs. With seven-eighths of the season still remaining, the Panthers managed to get 26 percent of last season's runs. The girls are hungry for a killer season. "I'm very excited to continue the season with them and to keep doing what we're doing," said Ruschill '22. The Panthers travel to Florida next week, where they'll compete against non-Northeast schools such as Oberlin College and Carleton.

Baseball Wins Series Against Emory

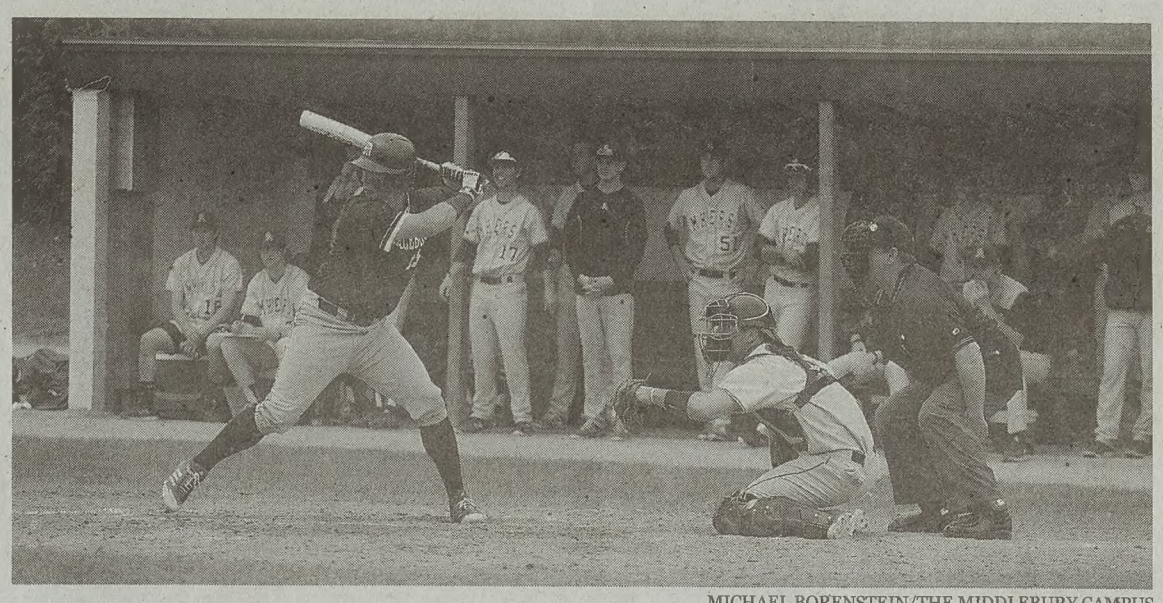
By ISABELLA MARCUS
Staff Writer

The Middlebury baseball team (3-2, 0-0) improved its non-conference record to 3-2, after a three-win week facing Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on March 14 (3-4, 0-0) followed by a three-game series against Emory University (7-8, 0-0) on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17.

Last Thursday, the Panthers showed up on the road against Rensselaer. They rallied for 11 late runs to ease past the Engineers despite a silent first two innings. The game ended up finishing early by the eighth inning because of darkness.

Middlebury blew the game open in the seventh inning, scoring seven runs on just six hits. The squad found 12 hits with five players rounding out the frame with two hits each: right fielder Justin Han '20, center fielder Henry Strmecki '21, third baseman Hayden Smith '20, second baseman Andrew Gough '22 and left fielder Sam Graf '19. The team also totaled eight stolen bases.

In his first collegiate start, first-year pitcher Alex Rosario gave up just one run on no hits. Rosario lasted for three innings, and was followed by pitcher George Goldstein '21 (1-0), who ultimately managed to pick up the win. Goldstein allowed one run on two hits over three innings.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The baseball team will play two double headers against Lawrence and Elmhurst over spring break.

The Panthers also closed out a three-game series against Emory in Atlanta. Middlebury, unaffected by the travel, opened up the fight with a doubleheader sweep, followed by a loss on Sunday. On Saturday, Middlebury totaled 26 runs over the two meetings, beating the Eagles 10-5 and 16-5.

According to pitcher Spencer Shores '20, this week's success came from the ability to capitalize on Rensselaer's and Emory's mistakes.

"We were able to steal bases and take advantage of walks and errors to score runs," Shores said. "Our pitching was effective in throwing strikes and being aggressive at hitters, putting our pitchers in advantageous counts to get outs."

Smith and shortstop Brooks Carroll '20 led the team during the doubleheader with four runs and four RBIs respectively in each game, including a home run from Carroll. Sophomore pitcher Bobby Sullivan (1-0) managed to capture the win with three innings of relief. Sullivan's performance limited the Eagles to no runs and just one hit with a pair of strikeouts.

On Sunday, the Panthers fell to the Eagles 8-2 after Emory jumped out to an early lead, scoring three runs in the bottom of the first inning.

According to Shores, Middlebury gave up too many free opportunities in the field, pitching and hitting.

"Overall, the team played well but miscues in timely situations — whether that be walks, errors, or outs at bat — put us in a tough position to win the game," Shores said. "Emory's pitcher was also a very talented and was able to pitch effectively late into the game."

This week has provided Middlebury with valuable on field experiences the team has lacked at home due to the icy Vermont weather.

"We have proven to ourselves our ability to compete against quality baseball teams," Shores said. "Emory has gone to the College World Series three of the past five years. Our coaching staff and players have been able to better access what roles individuals need to fill for our success as the season continues."

The Panthers return to the diamond for their Spring Break trip in Florida beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 23 for a doubleheader versus Lawrence University (1-5, 0-0). Middlebury will play a total of 10 games, including its first NESCAC matchup in a three-game series against Hamilton College (4-1, 0-0).

SGA Athletic Affairs Committee Hosts March Madness Bracket Challenge

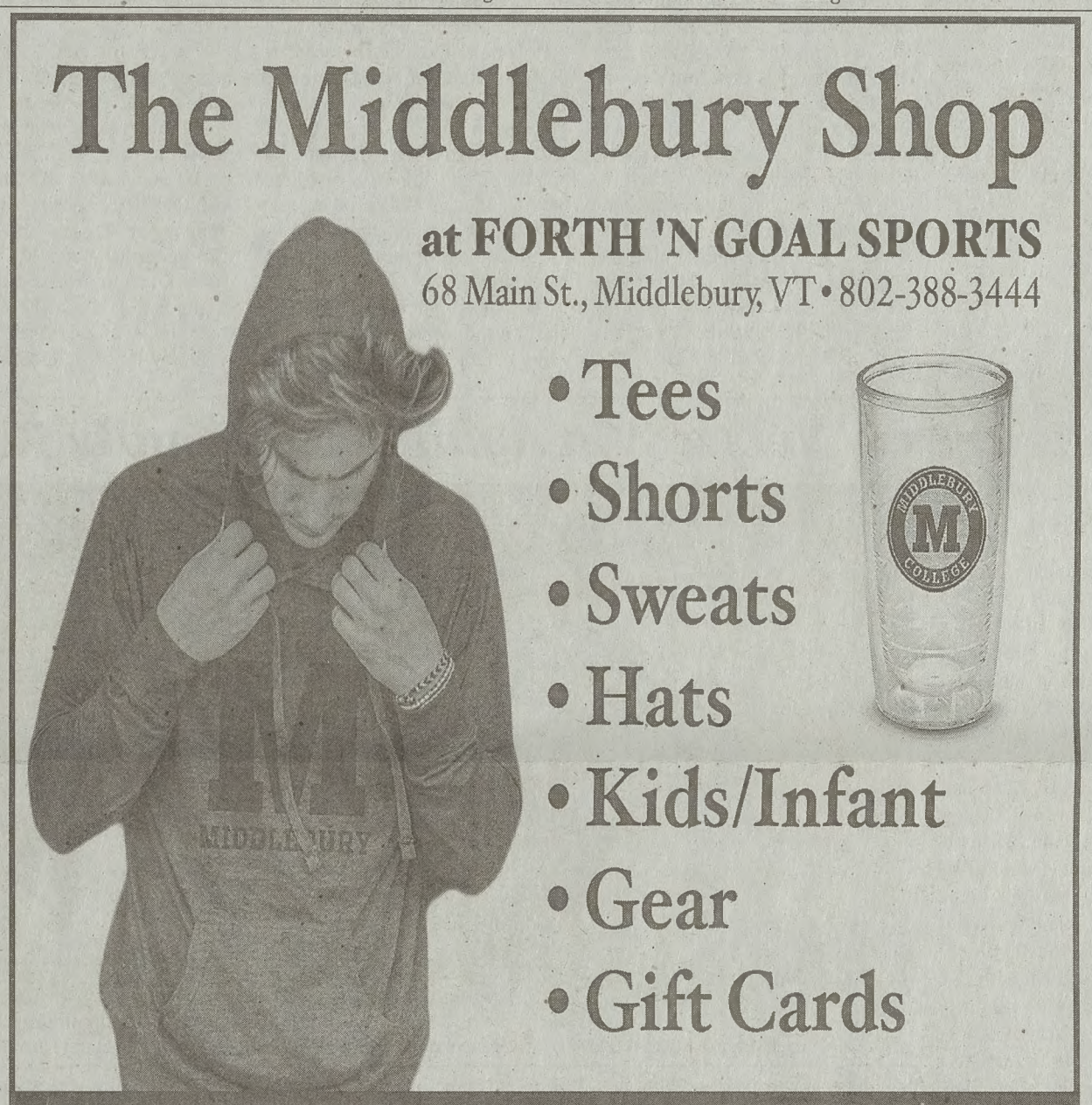
By BENJY RENTON
Senior Sports Editor

The SGA's Athletic Affairs Commitee is hosting its first campus-wide March Madness Bracket Challenge.

Students, faculty and staff can fill out their own March Madness bracket online for free at go/middmadness, with the group name "MiddMadness" and the password "Middlebury" by March 21 for the chance to win $150 in declining balance. Student-athletes can participate as the challenge complies with NCAA regulations.

"We are really excited to bring the community together and can't wait to see the results play out," said Izzy Hartnett '21, the co-director of the Athletic Affairs Committee.

The first round of the NCAA tournament play started on Tuesday, March 19. The University of Vermont will be among the teams competing in the first round, playing Florida State.



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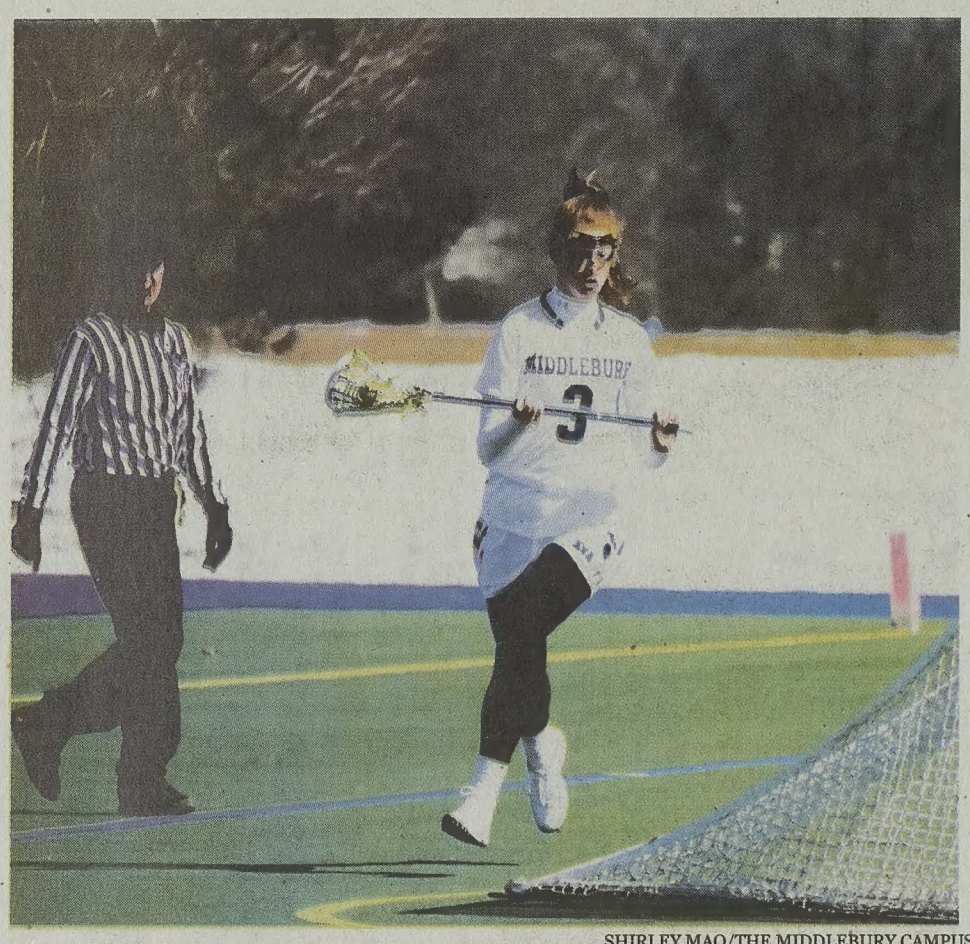
PREFERRED DEADLINE FOR SUMMER REQUESTS IS SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

Women's Lacrosse Captures Tight Win Against Cardinals



SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Junior attacker Emily Barnard scored two goals in the tight match against Wesleyan this past weekend.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Senior Casey O'Neill stepped up in the first 20 minutes to score Middlebury's first goal against the Cardinals.

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

This past weekend, the Middlebury women's lacrosse team improved their record to 3-1, defeating fellow NESCAC competition, the Wesleyan Cardinals, 8-7. Momentum shifted back and forth throughout the game, but the Panthers drove in the winning goal with just five minutes on the clock.

Though the Cardinals put up the first point of the game, Middlebury came back with force. Within the next 16 minutes of the contest, three Panthers connected with the net: Casey O'Neill '19, Emily Barnard '20 and Jenna McNicholas '19. After another Wesleyan score, McNicholas put the Panthers up 4-2 for her second goal of the game. By halftime, the Cardinals answered with two of their own goals, tying the score 4-4.

The second half became a back-and-forth battle between the offenses. Wesleyan put up three points, countered by another three Panther goals. With five minutes left, Emma McDonagh '19 capitalized on a free-position shot. The game ended in an 8-7 Panther victory. "Coming into the game we knew Wesleyan was going to be very competitive and the score reflected this: never being more than two goals apart the whole game," McDonagh said, "We really tried to focus on taking the game one play at a time and not getting distracted by the end goal. We relied on communication to stay composed and are always reminding each other to be confident."

McDonagh, along with McNicholas and Barnard, each had two goals on the day. The senior emphasized the defense's ability to step up against a gritty Wesleyan offense.

"Wesleyan has some really strong attackers that drive hard to cage and our defense did an incredible job stopping them and playing as a unit," said McDonagh.

Defender Addy Mitchell '21 kept the Cardinals' scoring at bay. The sophomore caused six turnovers throughout the contest, while also recording four ground balls.

Ranked sixth in the nation, the team looks to March 23 when they will play Bowdoin in another NESCAC bout. The Polar Bears are 1-3 for the season and 1-2 in NESCAC play. The Panther squad seeks to improve upon their already-impressive season with their motivation and "grit."

"This team is talented but really embraces hard work and isn't afraid to play gritty. I think we have stepped up our intensity in practice, and it serves us well in games," said McDonagh. "We still have a lot of things we can execute better so we will continue to focus on improving during practice to prepare us for our games."

Men's Lacrosse Nets a Win Against Nationally Ranked Dickinson

By BOBBY SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
After a stinging loss against rival Wesleyan, the Panthers came back stronger to defeat Dickinson at the Mustang Classic.

The Middlebury men's lacrosse team traveled to Baltimore, MD this past weekend to play in the Mustang Classic. After suffering a 12-6 loss to conference foe, Wesleyan Cardinals, the Panthers rebounded and defeated nationally ranked Dickinson 16-11.

After a 9-2 deficit in the first half of the Wesleyan game, Middlebury tried to surmount a comeback in the latter half of the game. Tyler Forbes '22 scored quickly at the 12:32 mark to gain some Middlebury momentum. However, the Cardinals' strong offense responded with two goals in a span of four minutes. Again, the Panthers stayed strong and were able to rattle off three unanswered goals coming from Frank Cosolito '20 and two from Chase Goree '20. Down five scores at the start of the fourth quarter, the team was shut down by great goaltending and stifling defense from Wesleyan. Middlebury struggled to get shots the entire game, firing only 17 and scoring six. Forbes and Goree led the team in scoring with two goals a piece. Charles Midgley '19 played all 60 minutes in goal, saving 17 of the 29 shots coming from Wesleyan.

Despite the loss to start the weekend, Middlebury came out very strong and motivated in the Saturday match-up against Dickinson. To no surprise, the Panthers came out red-hot, scoring the game's first four goals. AJ Kucinski '20 tallied two and the other contributions came again from Cosolito and Forbes. After Dickinson responded with three of their own, Forbes and Alderik vanderHeyde '21 netted each of their own, putting the Panthers up 6-4 at the half.

Just like the start of the game, Middlebury came out shooting in the second half and scored three within the half's first four minutes. Senior captain Jack Gould scored a beautiful goal at the 13:14 mark, netting one far out and with pace. The goalie had no chance. Dickinson responded with three straight goals of their own yet still remained behind in a 11-7 contest.

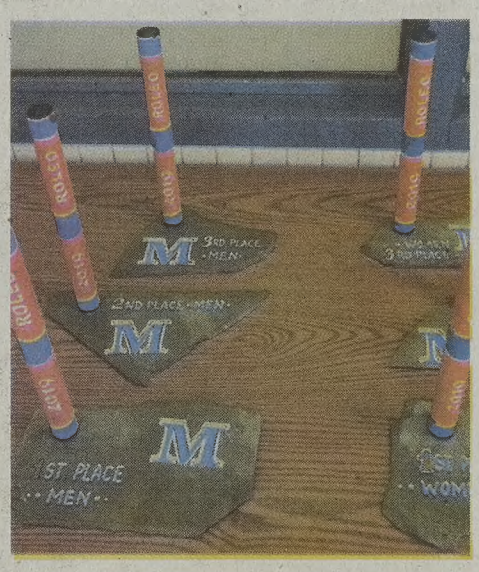
At the start of the fourth, Dickinson made it quite a game by closing the gap to just one goal. However, the hot offense of the Panthers picked up and they responded with three of their own, two coming from Forbes. With seven minutes to go in the game, the teams traded goals but Middlebury came out on top 16-11. They never trailed in the game.

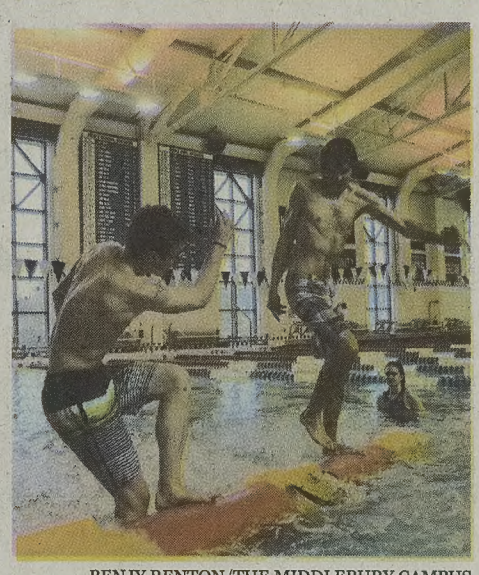
Forbes led the team in scoring with five, culminating to a total of 16 goals on the year. Jack Hoelzer '21 fed the ball and tallied two assists on the day. Again, Midgley played all sixty minutes in goal, this time tallying nine saves on 20 shots.

Men's lacrosse holds a 2-3 record to begin the year. Their next contest will come against Bowdoin on Saturday, March 23. This is their first home game of the year, and they look to remain in the middle of the pact in the NESCAC conference.

Photos of the Week

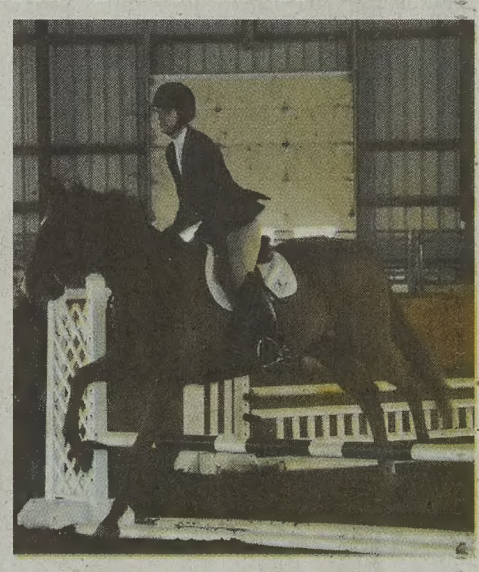
LOG ROLLING HOSTS MIDDLEBURY INVITATIONAL





BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Middlebury's log rolling club hosted the 2019 Middlebury Invitational this past weekend in the Natatorium. Sarah Howard '19 won on the women's side, while Derrick Burt '20.5 took first place for the men.

EQUESTRIAN COMPETES IN HOME SHOW



COURTESY PHOTOS
The equestrian team hosted its first spring show at Wishful Thinking Farm in New Haven. Tom Sacco '20.5 (top left) captured third place, while Hannah Patterson '19 competes in the fences class.